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Deepest field ever aims at Sochi

JIM MORRIS

The Morning Roar

It they were jewels there would be enough to decorate a crown. When it's all over the winners will be one step closer to claiming curling's golden pinnacle.

The 16-team field at the 2013 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings Canadian Curling Trials, presented my Monsanto, contains one Olympic gold medallist, five world champions, three world curling champion medallists, four Brier champions and three rinks that have won the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. The male and female rink who win here earn a trip to Sochi, Russia, and the right to represent Canada at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

The game remains the same but the prize is entirely different.

"It's not like a Brier," said Edmonton's Kevin Martin, who climbed on top of the winner's podium at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. "The pressure is different too.

"The prize is a mountain of difference. The prize is going to an Olympic Games. It's the time of your life. That's what I am thinking about. It's just not the same."

Winnipeg's Jeff Stoughton, a two-time world champion, said the trials create a different demeanour among the players. The Brier and Scotties are like going to friend's house for a night of playing bridge. The trials is sitting at a high-stakes poker table in Vegas.

"The players, even toward each other, are quieter," said Stoughton, "The crowd is different because they know what's on the line. They seem even quieter because it's not a Brier and rowdy atmosphere."

The men's field includes Brier and world champions like Glenn Howard of Tiny, Ont., Stoughton, and Kevin Koe of Calgary.

Defending Brier champion Brad Jacobs of Sault St. Marie, Ont., is playing at his first trials, along with John Epping of Toronto and Winnipeg's Mike McEwen. John Morris, who was third on Martin's gold medal rink, has joined Jim Cotter's rink from Vernon, B.C. Morris will skip but throw third stones.

On the women's side, Jennifer Jones of Winnipeg has won just about every title possible, but a trip to the Olympics has eluded her.

"It's always been special this event," said Jones, a four-time Scotties champion. "To go and represent Canada, and wear that Maple Leaf at the Olympics, I can't even begin to imagine how great that would be."

The other women's rink include defending Scotties champion Rachel Homan of Ottawa; 2012 Hearts winner Heather Nedohin of Edmonton; Chelsea Carey of Winnipeg; Sherry Middaugh, of Victoria Harbour, Ont.; Renee Sonnenberg of Grande Prairie, Alta.; Stefanie Lawton of Saskatoon; and Val Sweeting of Edmonton.

The women's winner will be determined Saturday and the men's on Sunday.

Gerry Peckham, high performance director for the Canadian Curling Association, said the star-studded field reflects the country's curling depth.

"It's a testament to the number of quality teams we have," he said.

The competition, being held at the MTS Centre, is a round-robin with the first place teams advancing to the final. The second and third-place teams clash in a semifinal.



If the event didn't have enough dazzle, there will be a little Hollywood sparkle during Sunday's opening draw when Will Ferrell appears as Ron Burgundy to promote his movie *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues*. Ferrell, the star of such movies as *Elf*, *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*, and *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, will make an on-ice appearance and join the TSN commentating crew in the booth.

"It's pretty cool for curling," said Jones.

The skips agree the men's field is the deepest since the first trials back in 1987, when curling was a demonstration sport at the 1988 Calgary Games.

"Every single game is going to be tough," said Stoughton. "We have to be ready from the first shot to the last."

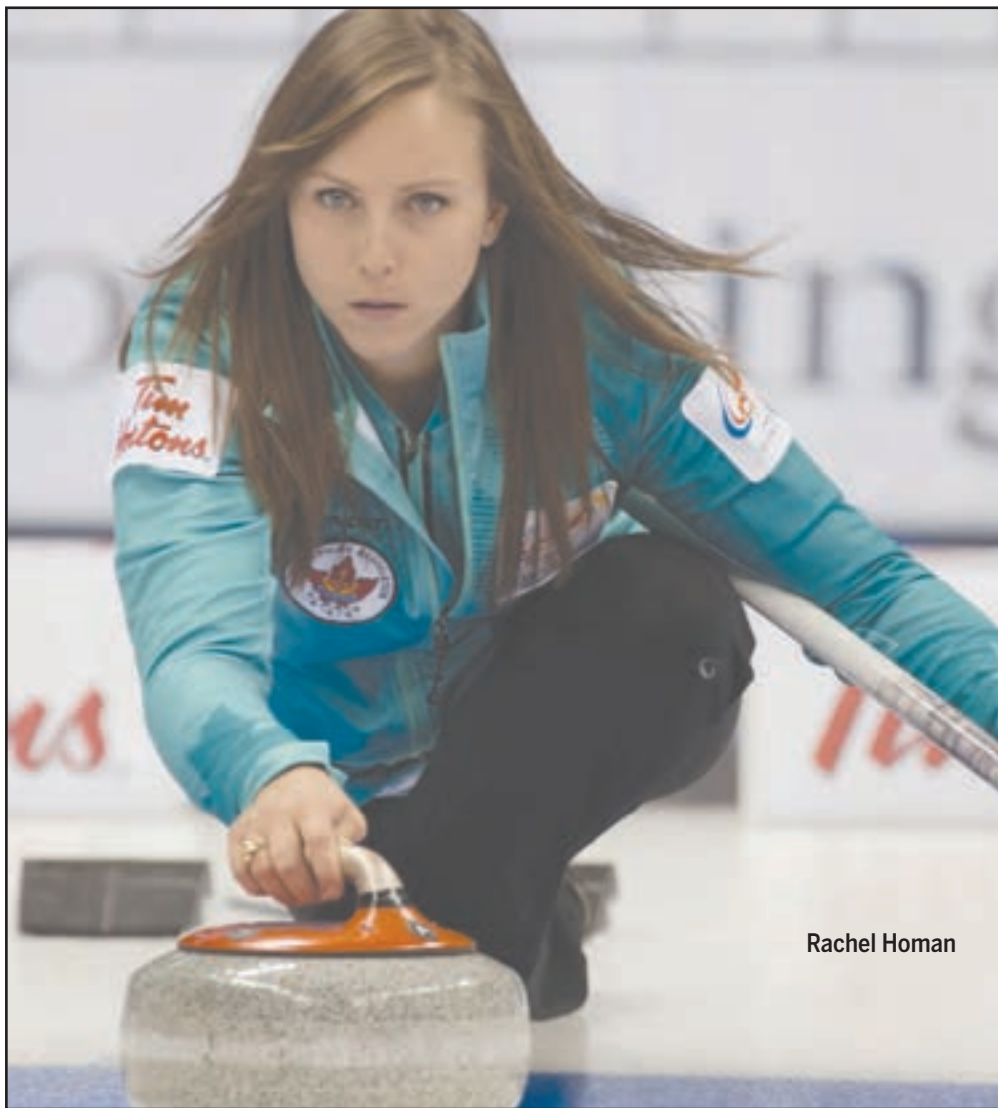
Howard predicted two losses is the most any team can suffer if they hope to make the playoffs.

"You've got to go out guns blazing," said the four-time Brier champion, "There is no free space on the bingo card.

"We are the best teams in our country playing for the biggest prize in curling, the chance to go to the Olympics."

Jacobs, who lost to Sweden's Niklas Edin in the final of this year's Ford World Men's Curling Championship in Victoria, had to fight his way through the pre-trials in Kitchener, Ont., to earn a trip to Winnipeg.

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“Battling our way here was kind of like battling your way into the Brier,” said Jacobs. “That’s really the thing that gets our team going the most. It’s not the World Curling Tour events so much as the Brier and having to earn your way to the next spot.

“We’re driven more so by that, than money. Coming through the pre-trials for us is a great thing. Getting more, good, competitive games is only going to make us better.”

Martin denies the gold medal he won in Vancouver means he is carrying some any extra weight at the trials.

“I don’t feel any different,” said the three-time Olympian, who won silver at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. “I don’t worry about the target (on his back) or the pressure part.

“I could go 6-1 here or 1-6 and really be within two or three percentage points of the same shooting.”

McEwen said playing at home will be emotional for his rink.

“We might learn to play with that adrenaline,” he said.

Jones, 39, and Homan, 24, _ two skips at the opposite ends of their careers _ are considered the frontrunners among the women.

This will be the first time Jones has played a major event before a home-town crowd.

“We’ve played a lot against the home-town crowd in (other) finals, so we know what it’s like to be on that side,” she said. “We can’t wait to have the crowd behind us. It’s like having an extra player on the sheet.”

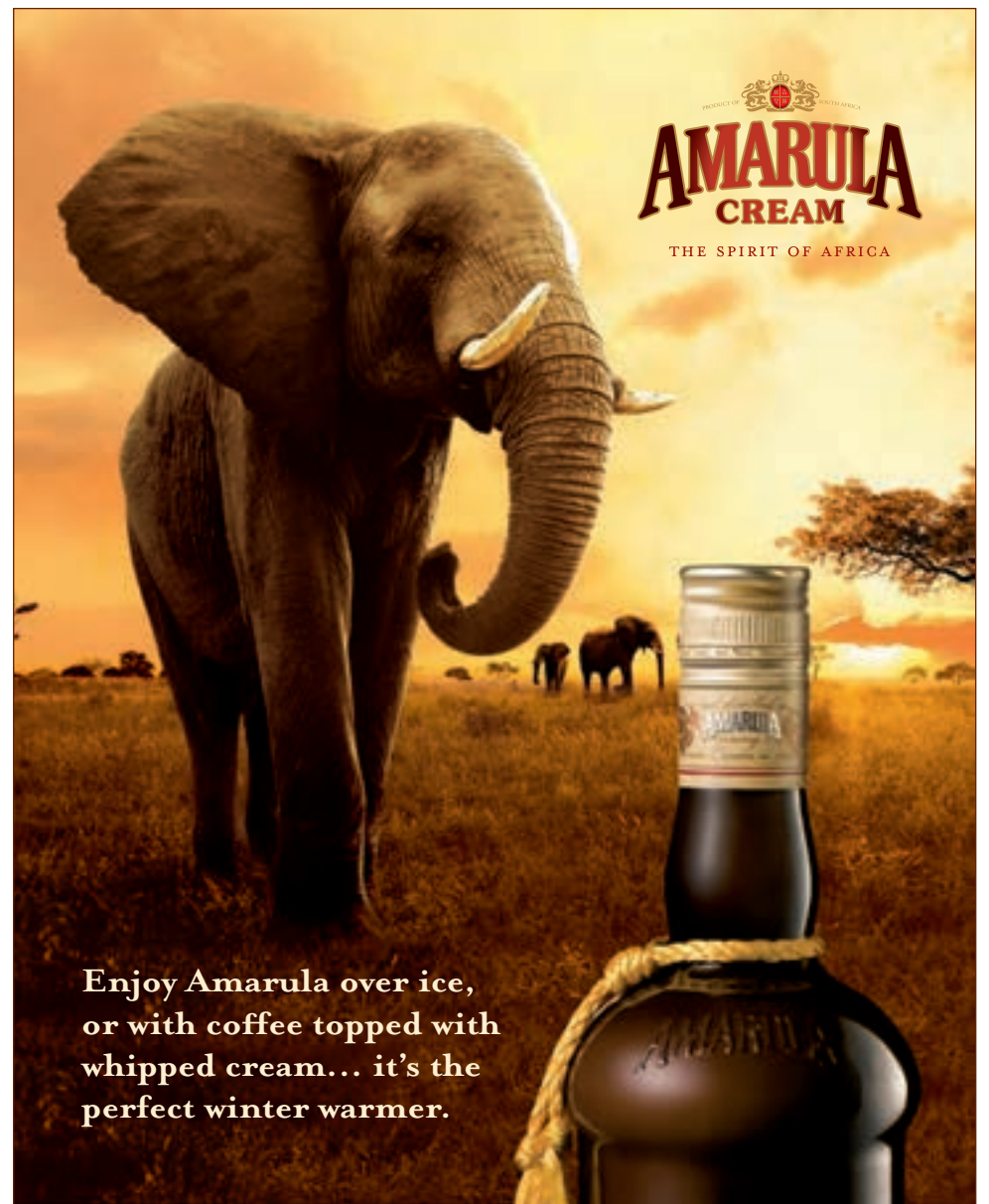
Curling capacity at the MTS Centre is around 12,000 per draw. Mitch Tarapasky, chairman of the host committee, has predicted the trials will attract more people than the 165,075 who attended the 2008 Brier in Winnipeg.

The Olympic curling competition begins Feb. 10. The women’s gold medal game is Feb. 20 and the men play Feb. 21.

Stoughton chuckled when asked if the serious nature of the trials removes some of the fun of curling.

“Playing here is going to be fun for one team and that’s the winner,” he said.

“The rest of the teams, they’ve put three or four years of blood, sweat and tears into winning this event. And if you don’t, then it’s going to be disappointment. And if you’re not disappointed if you don’t win, I don’t know what you’re playing for.”



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Who will wear Maple Leaf in Sochi?

With one of the deepest qualifying fields ever, it's all on the line in Winnipeg

MORNING ROAR STAFF

Sixteen teams have made their way to Winnipeg; only two will punch a ticket to Russia.

Sunday to Sunday, eight men's and women's squads will battle to earn the right to wear the Maple Leaf in Sochi come February 2014.

With this opportunity open only once every four years, the tensions will be high, the competition fierce and the reward amazing.

Here is a consensus of our fearless prognostications of what to expect.

MEN

Arguably, the men's field is the deepest it has ever been. It's a potent collection of past Olympic medal-winners; a couple of crews that have done everything in the game but see the Rings; a couple of units that have long been seen as the next generation of Canada's curling elite; and a few dark horses thrown in.

1. JEFF STOUGHTON (6-TO-5): For Stoughton, like Howard and Martin, this has to be the last tea party. Despite age, all three of these Hall-of-Fame-bound skips still play at the top

level and have infused their lineup with both youth and experience. So give Stoughty the extra-end edge mostly because it's his last crack at it, and on home ice. It's a strong team and don't forget Mark Nichols has been there before with Brad Gushue in 2006.



JEFF STOUGHTON

2. GLENN HOWARD (4-TO-3): Howard has accomplished virtually everything on the ice and more, but this would be the crowning achievement on a remarkable career, something brother Russ enjoyed with Gushue in Torino. For hot-tossin' Wayne Middaugh, this also could be it for an Olympic run. The front end of Laing and Savill have many more ends ahead. It would almost be fitting that Howard and Stoughton played the final for that one shot at gold neither has enjoyed.

3. KEVIN MARTIN (3-TO-2): You can never discount the Ol' Bear, he's been there aplenty, including gold in Vancouver and a tough-luck silver in Salt Lake City. While he lost John Mor-

ris, he gained seasoned champ David Nedohin— not a combo many in the game necessarily saw coming. The key will be the strategic "same-page" between Martin and Nedohin and the front-end cardio crew of Hebert and Kennedy setting the table, allowing Nedohin to play shots he likes to play, not has to play, and avoiding an all-too-familiar scenario of having the skipper forced to make a circus shot to win.

4. KEVIN KOE (2-TO-1): It's hard to call Koe's crew a dark-horse because nobody will be surprised to see them win. Koe probably doesn't mind flying just below the radar here, but remember he has won a world title, second Carter Rycroft has been to the Olympics before, Nolan Thiessen is among the land's best leads and Pat Simmons is capable of making the big up-weight shots to allow Koe the chance to bail out of trouble.

5. BRAD JACOBS (9-TO-2): The Soo Crew is coming off its first Brier win and a silver at the Worlds; the team has grown substantially with the addition of Ryan Fry in the three-hole, and the much-muscled Harnden boys doing the deal on the broom and offering quality input on shot selection. Jacobs has learned to grind and make that improbable last shot, and he'll have to make 'em here. He showed good bounce after losing to Morris in the Pre-Trials at Kitchener.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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WOMEN

6. MIKE McEWEN (5-TO-1): Another hometown favourite, MacEwen is a consensus “when-not-if” major-event winner. So close to the Brier so many times playing in, arguably, the toughest province to win, he’s enjoyed lots of success on the cash circuit, and Matt Wozniak and the Neufelds are a solid unit that’s very underrated. You never know, the Bison magic finally might shine on this crew this time around.

7. JOHN MORRIS (7-TO-1): This is a wild-card roster for sure. Quietly, Jim Cotter has made repeated trips to the Brier for the Left Coasters, has made some money on the circuit, and now has added Johnny Mo, who has won at every level of the game including a gold in Vancouver with Martin. Don’t count this bunch out.

8. JOHN EPPING (20-TO-1): Somewhat enigmatic in this lineup, Epping has been inconsistent outside of his home province. Because of the point formula on the cash circuit, he accumulated sufficient booty to earn an automatic bid here — so it’s not like this team doesn’t have winning talent. But it’s thigh-deep in a very tough field, the longest shot, a possible giant-killer.

...

A solid mix of veteran and up-and-coming talent with a few ‘surprises’ tossed in. On the surface, this looks like a three-team race to the wire but, then, you may recall the stunning monkey wrench Cheryl Bernard tossed into the works four years ago. And this field boasts a few teams that may be capable of emulating the unlikely Bernard romp. Overall, a tough field, and beyond the top three, totally unpredictable.

1. JENNIFER JONES (6-TO-5): JJ’s outfit remains one of the top few in the country despite having lineup adjustments since the last disappointing Trials. Jones is one of Canada’s best shotmakers and the team is ready to roll on home ice. It certainly figures to be around come the weekend.

2. RACHEL HOMAN (7-TO-5): The young Ottawa crew had been ‘the next one’ for not-that-many years, but the team arrived last year in a hurry and in pretty clear fashion. It appears it has picked it up again where it left off in big money curling and has added Heather Smith as their fifth to plug a lack-of-experience gap.

3. STEFANIE LAWTON (3-TO-1): Could



JENNIFER JONES

this be a defining moment for the Saskatoon crew, which has enjoyed highs and lows on the cash circuit, provincials, and Canada Cups? The form chart indicates either a red-hot run or a so-so struggle but some experts have been picking this team to arrive for years and this could be the time.

4. HEATHER NEDOHIN (5-TO-1): Probably the most intense skip in the field with solid backing, Nedohin and Co., may be a force to be reckoned with. The foursome will have to remain focused for the duration here — there’ll be no room for mistakes and rebounds. One or

possibly two blips here is all they’ll get.

5. CHELSEA CAREY (7-1): A dark horse for sure, but with solid home-building support. Quietly, it has been one of the most successful cash-circuit teams and one of the busiest, too. Experience has been building but getting over the big hump always has been troublesome.

6. SHERRY MIDDAUGH (8-TO-1): The veteran in this field, Middaugh brings an interesting mix of experience — plenty of it. She benefits from a strong curling environment, a culture of winning and positive thinking around her Georgian Bay base. If there’s a Bernard re-run in the cards here, Middaugh would fit the bill. Results outside Ontario, though, have deteriorated.

7. RENEE SONNENBERG (10-TO-1): Grande Prairie’s queen of the sheet is now a full-time curler. A tough loss in last year’s provincial final may have promoted a required attitude adjustment. Pre-Trials success was a surprise to many but it’s difficult to foresee a duplication in this field.

8. VAL SWEETING (12-TO-1): A young team that exhibited a high degree of resilience in the Pre-Trials with a combination of two lefthanders and two righthanders firing from both hacks. But this entry will need a few races and may prove out of its element here.

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B.C. boys look to carry on Kitchener ‘Mo’

When it comes to Olympic qualifying, history, at least in the current format, has shown us it's all about the Mo – as in momentum.

While it is true that we have seen top-ranked teams parlay Brier and Scotties success into bids for Olympic gold, we have also seen our fair share of very good teams seizing the opportunity of the cycle, jumping up and grabbing the moment and riding it to the international podium.

Look at recent history: Cheryl Bernard, the Grande Prairie-born, Calgary darling had enjoyed a great deal of success on the provincial, national and cashspiel circuits, but grabbed that MO to wear the Maple Leaf in Vancouver. And while she did not bring home gold, her silver medal was nevertheless impressive and spoke to the depth of Canadian curling talent.

Mike Harris's Toronto crew in Nagano is another great example. While Harris has enjoyed a great career, now off ice as well in his TV incarnation, his greatest achievement was leading his crew to the Far East in 1998. Again, Silver, but losing to Pal Trulsen of Norway on a day when he was so sick he could barely stand, is again a fine example

HAMMER TIME

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of Canadian courage and depth of field.

The best example, of course, is Newfoundland/Labrador's Brad Gushue and a gold in Turin for Canada.

Gushue is one of Canada's most recognized curlers and is almost always on the dance ice near the end of the night at the Brier, he just never seems to still be there when the lights go up. In 2006, thanks to Russ Howard's addition to Jamie Korab and Mark Nichols, the curling gods smiled on rocks and The Rock, and history was made.

While the curling so-called experts acknowledged Gushue's presence at the Olympic trials as deserved, few picked him to beat a favoured Jeff Stoughton in the final.

But he did.

And it was all about the Mo.

And so it is of this Winnipeg gathering.

While the field is incredibly deep – one that includes the likes of defending Brier champ Brad Jacobs (many still questioning a points system that has them having to play into Winnipeg, while a team such as John Epping – which has never won even a provincial bid is in automatically via the cash circuit – it is clear that the teams progressing to The Peg will have Mo on their side.

Enter Johnny Mo – aka John Morris – Captain John Morris of the Rocky View Fire Department. Shaken, not stirred.

Morris shocked the curling world this summer by announcing he would give up his automatic bid to The Roar as part of Team Kevin Martin, and leave the unit. He further raised eyebrows by joining Jimmy “The Kid” Cotter's Kelowna/Vernon crew.

Committed to the Olympic trial run, Morris says his curling future is anything but certain after that.

“I've come to realize that my career and long-term financial stability are becoming more important to me, a priority,” he said.

“Curling will always be a big part of my life, but it's not something that you can count on as a career; to be successful off the ice you always have to be successful on the ice. One month you're eating steak, the next month it's Kraft Dinner,” he laughs.

And that's big coming from a player who has been part of a crew that has won its fair share of loot both via Own the Podium and the cash tour.

“You have to have a profession that affords you the flexibility to schedule curling as part of your life; so if you don't win, it's not such a financial hardship.

“In Alberta, especially, it's financial success and opportunity, you've seen curlers such as myself, Benny Hebert, Pat Simmons, be able to take advantage of that and make curling part of their living at the same time,” he said.

But Morris all but quashes the notion his move is some sinister sub plot to hand-pick Canada's next great team, move back to playing out of the Cowtown, and assume the title of Canada's Next Great Curler.

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The Roar of the Rings Lineup • Winnipeg 2013



MEN

Team Epping



ONTARIO
 Donald Curling Club
 Toronto
 Experience factor — 7
 Sk — John Epping (30-2)
 3rd — Scott Bailey (43-5)
 2nd — Collin Mitchell (44-2)
 Ld — David Mathers (22-1)
 Alt — Trevor Wall (39-2).
 Qualified — CTRS Points, #6
 Coach — Jim Wilson
 Qualified — Road To Roar
 Pre-Trials #2

Team Howard



ONTARIO
 Coldwater & District Curling Club
 Coldwater
 Experience factor — 17
 Sk — Glenn Howard (51-7)
 3rd — Wayne Middaugh (46-6)
 2nd — Brent Laing (35-4)
 Ld — Craig Savill (35-4)
 Alt — Scott Howard (23-1).
 Qualified — CTRS Points #1
 Coach — Scott Taylor

Team Jacobs



ONTARIO
 Soo Curlers Association
 Sault Ste. Marie
 Experience factor — 0
 Sk — Brad Jacobs (28-1)
 3rd — Ryan Fry (35-1)
 2nd — E.J. Harnden (30-1)
 Ld — Ryan Harnden (27-1)
 Alt — Caleb Flaxey (30-1)
 Qualified — Road To Roar
 Pre-Trials #2
 Coach — Tom Coulterman

Team Koe



ALBERTA
 Glencoe Curling Club
 Calgary
 Experience factor — 8
 Sk — Kevin Koe (38-3)
 3rd — Pat Simmons (39-2)
 2nd — Carter Rycroft (36-4)
 Ld — Nolan Thiessen (33-2)
 Alt — Jamie King (40-2)
 Qualified: CTRS points, #4
 Coach — John Dunn

Team Martin



ALBERTA
 Saville Sports Centre
 Edmonton
 Experience factor — 13
 Sk — Kevin Martin (47-6)
 3rd — Dave Nedohin (40-4)
 2nd — Marc Kennedy (32-3)
 Ld — Ben Hebert (30-3)
 Alt — Brad Gushue (33-2)
 Qualified — Canada Cup, 2011
 Coach — Jules Owchar

(brackets: age, total Trials appearances)

Team McEwen



MANITOBA
 Fort Rouge Curling Club
 Winnipeg
 Experience factor — 0
 Sk — Mike McEwen (33-1)
 3rd — B.J. Neufeld (27-1)
 2nd — Mat Wozniak (30-1)
 Ld — Denni Neufeld (32-1)
 Alt — Brendan Melnyk (33-1).
 Qualified — CTRS Points, #2
 Coach — Chris Neufeld

Team Morris



B.C.
 Vernon/ Kelowna CC
 Kelowna
 Experience factor — 6
 Sk (3rd rock) — John Morris (35-4)
 4th — Jim Cotter (39-2)
 2nd — Ty Griffith (28-1)
 Ld — Rick Sawatsky (38-2)
 Alt — Jason Gunnlaugson (29-2).
 Qualified — Road To Roar
 Pre-Trials #1
 Coach — Pat Ryan

Team Stoughton



MANITOBA
 Fort Rouge Curling Club
 Winnipeg
 Experience factor — 0
 Sk — Mike McEwen (33-1)
 3rd — B.J. Neufeld (27-1)
 2nd — Mat Wozniak (30-1)
 Ld — Denni Neufeld (32-1)
 Alt — Brendan Melnyk (33-1).
 Qualified — CTRS Points, #2
 Coach — Chris Neufeld

WOMEN

(brackets: age, total Trials appearances)

Team Carey



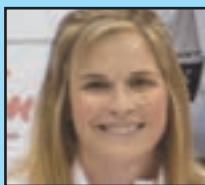
MANITOBA
 Fort Rouge Curling Club
 Winnipeg
 Experience factor — 0
 Sk — Chelsea Carey (29-1)
 3rd — Kristy McDonald (34-1)
 2nd — Kristen Foster (26-1)
 Ld — Lindsay Titheridge (31-1)
 Alt — Breanne Meakin (23-1).
 Qualified — CTRS Points, #6
 Coach — Dan Carey

Team Homan



ONTARIO
 Ottawa Curling Club
 Ottawa
 Experience factor — 0
 Sk — Rachel Homan (24-1)
 3rd — Emma Miskew (25-1)
 2nd — Alison Kreviazuk (25-1)
 Ld — Lisa Weagle (28-1)
 Alt — Heather Smith (37-1).
 Qualified — CTRS Points #4
 Coach — Earle Morris

Team Jones



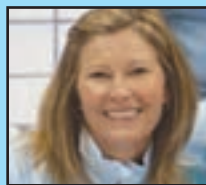
MANITOBA
 St. Vital Curling Club
 Winnipeg
 Experience factor — 7
 Sk — Jennifer Jones (39-3)
 3rd — Kaitlyn Lawes (25-1)
 2nd — Jill Officer (38-3)
 Ld — Dawn McEwen (33-2)
 Alt — Kirsten Wall (38-3).
 Qualified — Canada Cup 2011
 Coach — Janet Arnott

Team Lawton



SASKATCHEWAN
 Granite Curling Club
 Saskatoon
 Experience factor — 10
 Sk — Stefanie Lawton (33-3)
 3rd — Sherry Anderson (49-4)
 2nd — Sherri Singler (39-3)
 Ld — Marliese Kasner (31-3)
 Alt — Cori Morris (42-2).
 Qualified — Canada Cup 2012
 Coach — Rick Folk

Team Middaugh



ONTARIO
 Coldwater and District Curling Club
 Coldwater
 Experience factor — 5
 Sk — Sherry Middaugh (47-4)
 3rd — Jo-Ann Rizzo (50-2)
 2nd — Lee Merklinger (29-1)
 Ld — Leigh Armstrong (31-1)
 Alt — Lori Eddy (42-2).
 Qualified — CTRS Points #5
 Coach — Bob Turcotte

Team Nedohin



ALBERTA
 Saville Sports Centre
 Edmonton
 Experience factor — 5
 Sk — Heather Nedohin (38-2)
 3rd — Beth Iskiw (34-2)
 2nd — Jessica Mair (29-1)
 Ld — Laine Peters (43-2)
 Alt — Amy Nixon (36-3)
 Qualified — CTRS Points, #3
 Coach — Darryl Horne

Team Sonnenberg



ALBERTA
 GP Curling Club
 Experience factor — 1
 Sk — Renee Sonnenberg (42-1)
 3rd — Lawnie MacDonald (39-2)
 2nd — Cary-Anne McTaggart (27-1)
 Ld — Rona Pasika (37-1)
 Alt — Desiree Owen (29-1)
 Qualified — Road To Roar
 Pre-Trials #1
 Coach — Kurt Balderston

Team Sweeting



ALBERTA
 Saville Sports Centre
 Edmonton
 Experience factor — 2
 Sk — Valerie Sweeting (26-1)
 3rd (2nd rocks) — Dana Ferguson (25-1)
 2nd (3rd rocks) — Joanne Courtney (24-1)
 Ld — Rachelle Pidhirny (27-1)
 Alt — Amber Holland (39-3).
 Qualified — Road To Roar
 Pre-Trials #2
 Coach — Taina Smiley

Morris focused on prize; long-term priorities are key

CONTINUED FROM 6

“That’s a great theory,” again chuckles Morris, “But the reality is, I have to think long-term: Where do I want to be, what gives me the best opportunity for long term, full-time, job security as a firefighter? Where is a place I can be that combines that with an opportunity to raise a family, and sure, curling will be part of that, but it can’t be the main reason. I recognize that now. Priorities shift, I guess, as you get older... I want security in the job I love, make sure I have a pension and if I can do that and continue to curl at a high level, I will do that, but I have to keep things in perspective.”

For now, Morris is loving life playing with Cotter et al.

“What a great crew, I knew we’d fit together well...we’re not there yet, we’ve had a good winning percentage in the spiels we’ve played so far, but we haven’t figured out how to beat the big teams like Howard and such yet, but we hope that will come,” said Morris.

“We don’t have a long time to get it figured out, but you know, I like our chemistry and the way we are playing.

And in Kitchener it came together with a flawless performance.

Superstitious?

Consider this:

Four years ago, a team came out of nowhere in Prince George, B.C. to grab a berth to the Roar. That team was skipped by one Jason Gunnlaugson who stunned Winnipeg phenom Mike McEwen who experts had pegged as a near certain pre-trial winner.

So when Morris agreed to join the Cotter crew for this run, who did he replace?

“Jason got a too-good-to-turn-down job opportunity and decided to step away from the team,” said Morris.

Yes, the same Gunnlaugson who had joined the Cotter crew after Kevin Folk’s departure, and helped Cotter Inc. to some very fine cash spiel numbers – in fact ensuring a punch-ticket to Kitchener.

With that in mind, it will be the team with ‘The Mo’ that will roll to success in Winnipeg this week and book a ticket to Russia.

Question is, will it be Johnny Mo?

“We’ll see. It’s been great to play with these guys,” says Morris.

“We’re close, we just have to get over that little hump and I like our chances. The field is incredibly tough, but we’re hoping for the best.”

John Morris



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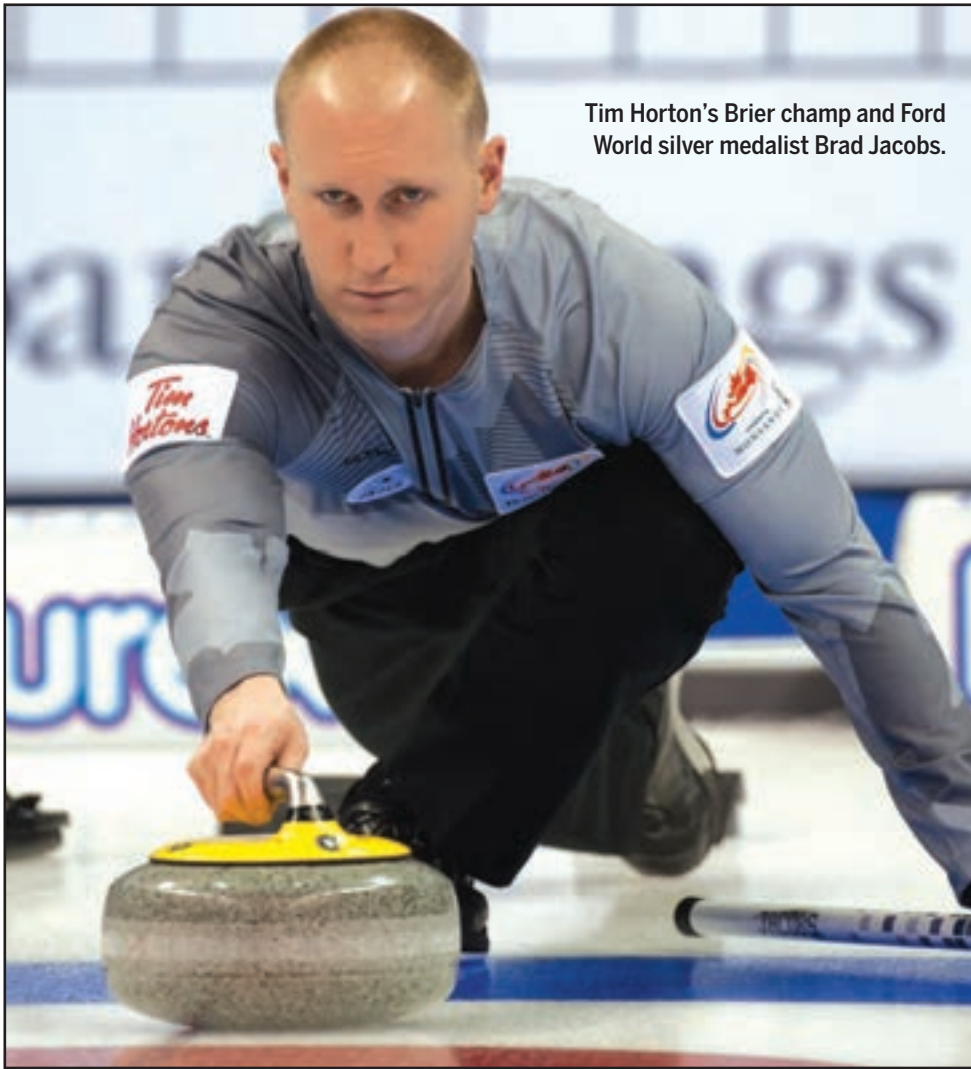
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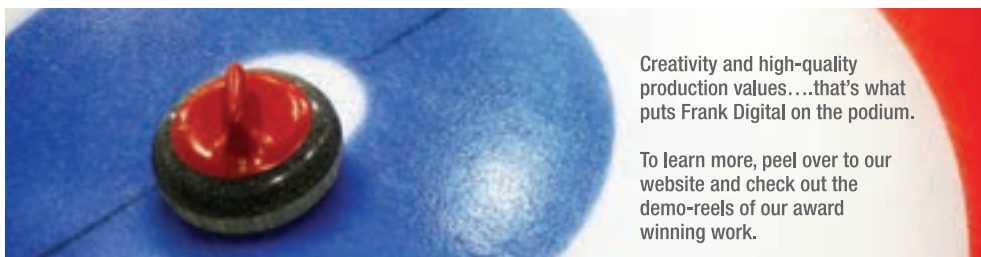
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The 2013 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings, presented by Monsanto, has finally arrived at the MTS Centre! Eight days of breathtaking action will decide the two Canadian teams that will compete next February on the biggest stage in the sporting world.

And just a short enclosed walk away, in the Winnipeg Convention Centre, the Patch will be the scene of the party of a lifetime – featuring a great selection of food and beverages and a lineup of outstanding live entertainment.

The fun kicks off at 4 p.m. this afternoon with the Foster Martin Band, mainstays of Manitoba's country music scene, providing the entertainment. And the Boom Chucka Boys take the stage for the night shift starting at 9:30 p.m., with their highly unique sound, ranging from old-school and contemporary country to rockabilly tunes dating back to the '50s.

When the curling's done, you definitely don't want to miss the party in the Patch – admission is free with every same-day event pass!



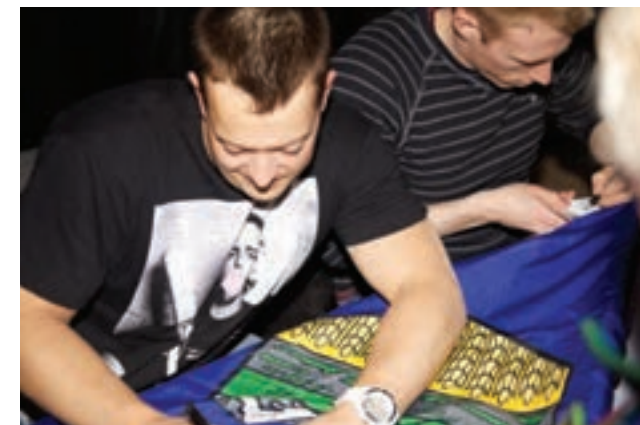
**UP CLOSE &
PERSONAL**

One of the highlights of every Season of Champions event is the Up Close and Personal interview session. The competitors will be sitting down in the Patch daily for a candid, and often colourful, conversation with the fans.

Sixteen junior curlers from Winnipeg and region clubs will be part of the excitement as honorary members of the teams competing at the Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings. You'll see them out on the ice with their teams at special pre-game ceremonies.



AUTOGRAPHS



11:45 AM – Tuesday – MTS Centre
Teams **Kevin Martin & John Morris**



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what's happening

THE PATCH
Foster Martin Band
Boom Chucka Boys

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL 5:15 PM – The Patch
Rachel Homan, Stefanie Lawton & Sherry Middaugh


AUTOGRAPHS 4:15 PM – MTS Centre
Teams **Chelsea Carey & Jennifer Jones**

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SKIP: Chelsea Carey

AGE: 29 (September 12, 1984, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

LIVES: Winnipeg

FAMILY: Single

YEARS CURLED: 24

OCCUPATION: Curler

DELIVERS: Right-handed

HIGHLIGHTS: Skipped at 2010 (2-3 in Medicine Hat), 2011 (5-2, runner-up) and 2012 (2-4 in Moose Jaw) Capital One Canada Cup

OLYMPIC DREAMS AND MEMORIES: "I am a complete Olympics addict - I never turn it off during any Games, summer or winter, so to pick one favourite moment is very difficult. I tried not to be cliché, but no matter how I turned it over in my head there is one that, in my heart, is my true favourite, which is The Golden Goal in Vancouver 2010. I'm a huge hockey fan, and I also vividly remember the 2002 Gold, Canada's first in over 50 years for the men's hockey team. The other one that really sticks in my memory is watching Donovan Bailey capture the 100M gold in 1996, earning the title Fastest Man in the World and breaking a World Record in the process.

I have a hard time picking a favourite curling Olympian, as they have all done our country so proud, but the one performance that stands out the most in my memory is that of Mark Nichols in the Gold Medal game in Torino 2006. I just remember saying "wow" over and over again as he made one spectacular shot after the next, and I found their Gold Medal win very emotional. Close behind is Cheryl Bernard, whose incredibly clutch performance drawing the pin for the win in game after game in Vancouver 2010 was nothing short of stunning.

My favourite non-curling Olympian is probably Jon Montgomery. Not only is he incredible in his sport, and watching him win Gold for Canada in Vancouver was enthralling, but he is also so full of amazing personality and not afraid to add a splash of colour to a very ceremonial event with his entertaining antics. I'll never forget his leap, landing decidedly square on the highest level of the podium, both feet at the same time. And of course, no one could forget the beer drinking!

Representing Canada at the Olympics would be the pinnacle of not only my curling career, but my entire life to date. Becoming an Olympian changes everything in the most incredible way possible. It represents the ultimate affiliation between sport and patriotism, two things that mean more to me than I can describe. And of course, as I again fail at avoiding clichés, it would be a dream come true.

•••

THIRD: Kristy McDonald

AGE: 34 (May 20, 1979, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

LIVES: Winnipeg

FAMILY: Husband Paul

YEARS CURLED: 27

OCCUPATION: Letter Carrier (Canada Post)

DELIVERS: Right-handed

HIGHLIGHTS: Played third for skip Chelsea Carey at 2010, 2011 (runner-up) and 2012 Capital One Canada Cup; alternate for Manitoba (skip Barb Spencer) at 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts (2-9 in Victoria); skipped Manitoba at two Canadian Juniors: in 1996 (5-7 in Edmonton) and in 1999 (7-5 in Kelowna)

OLYMPIC MEMORIES: "The most recent Olympic memory I can recall that gave me that warm, fuzzy feeling was when Andy Murray of Great Britain won the Gold in London at Wimbledon. It was a pretty remarkable feat considering he probably wasn't the favourite and he was playing the great Roger Federer, but he managed to win Olympic Gold in his home country. Roger



Federer also showed great humility and sportsmanship despite his obvious devastation. My favourite Olympian so far would have to be Kerri Strug, the American gymnast. She landed a perfect vault on a sprained ankle to win Gold for her team, not many Olympic champions can say that. I'm hoping that I can soon say that my cousin Tyler Derraugh is my favorite Canadian Olympian because he is close to qualifying for the Olympics as a part of Canada's Long Track Speed Skating team, which will be determined at the end of December 2013. Go Tyler! Wearing a maple leaf myself would be a pretty emotional thing. I can't even say what it would be like because I have no idea, I hope to find that out.

•••

SECOND: Kristen Foster

AGE: 26 (January 27, 1987, Morden, Manitoba)

LIVES: Morden

FAMILY: Partner Wilt Billing

YEARS CURLED: 20

OCCUPATION: Staff Accountant (Bridge Road Developments) and CGA Student

DELIVERS: Right-handed

HIGHLIGHTS: Played second for skip Chelsea Carey at 2010, 2011 (runner-up) and 2012 Capital One Canada Cup

Olympic Memories: "My favourite Olympic memory would have to be when Crosby scored the winning goal in the 2010 Olympic Gold Medal game. Hockey has to be my favourite sport to watch, so it was pretty exciting for me, and when Canada won it was a very memorable moment!

My favourite Curling Olympian is Russ Howard, I watched all of their games in 2006 - and the fact that he is the oldest Canadian to receive a gold medal is really amazing! Clara Hughes is an inspiration as well, as she is one of the few Olympians to receive multiple medals in the summer and winter Olympics.

Wearing the Maple Leaf in Sochi would be a dream come true. I remember when I was 13 my mom (coach at the time) told us to write down our long term curling goals, and I wrote down that I wanted to represent Canada at the 2014 Olympics, so the fact that I'm even at the Trials this week is amazing to me, I'm so excited to have the chance. I can't think of anything I would be more proud of, than being part of Olympic Team Canada - I'm that person that cries almost every time I hear or sing O' Canada. There almost aren't any words to express what that would mean to me; just thinking about it gives me goose bumps, the good kind.

•••

LEAD: Lindsay Titheridge

AGE: 31 (November 8, 1982, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

LIVES: Winnipeg

FAMILY: Single

YEARS CURLED: 24

OCCUPATION: Nurse (WRHA Grace Hospital)

DELIVERS: Right-handed

HIGHLIGHTS: Played lead for skip Chelsea Carey at 2010, 2011 (runner-up) and 2012 Capital One Canada Cup; played second for Manitoba skip Allison Nimik at 2001 Kärcher Canadian Juniors (4-8 in St. Catharines)

Olympic Memories: "I can't describe any one favourite Olympic moment. I love to tune in and watch all kinds of sports. Mostly because I am fascinated watching people do something I know I will never be able to do! If I had to choose, I would say watching athletes like Shaun White and Usain Bolt motivate me. They are arguably "the best". They pour their heart, soul and energy into being the best, and when the time comes to perform at the big show, they deliver. I love watching success come to those that work hard for it!

My favourite Olympic curling moment is still probably watching Brad Gushue and his team. Every once in a while I like to watch clips of all the unreal shots Mark Nichols made that week. So awesome to watch!

The thought of wearing the Maple Leaf on my back at the Olympic games is overwhelming. It would be so surreal. I hope that my team and I can go out and put together our best performance at the Roar of the Rings. Just maybe, on December 7th, I will have a better answer for you on what it might be like to represent Canada!

•••

ALTERNATE: Breanne Meakin

Olympic Memories: "My favourite olympic memory was from the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, and although there were many great moments for Canada, I vividly remember screaming at the TV in excitement when Alexander Bilodeau clenched Canada's first gold medal ever won in Canada. My favourite Olympian is Marnie McBean, not only is she talented but is a very inspirational person to many. I attempted to choose my favourite curling Olympian, but honestly they have all made Canada so proud, and have been such an inspiration for me, so in short I choose them all. Teams Harris, Martin, Gushue, Schmirler, Law, Kleibrink and Bernard. Wearing the maple leaf at the Olympics would be the pinnacle of my curling career, and to be able to wear it in Sochi would be the greatest honour. I would be so proud to represent Canada.

•••

COACH: Dan Carey

Olympic Memories: "My first big Olympic Games memory actually goes back to Mark Spitz...winning 7 Gold medals with 7 world records.(72 Olympics in Munich!) I was a competitive swimmer growing up, and his performance was just remarkable. When Ben Johnson won, I remember where I was (Toronto)...kind of like the Paul Henderson goal! At the time, it was incredibly exciting and a very proud patriotic moment. Of course, that all changed! And either of the Gold medals the men's hockey team won.... Salt lake or Vancouver. KD Lang's "Hallelujah" at Vancouver opening ceremonies gave me chills.

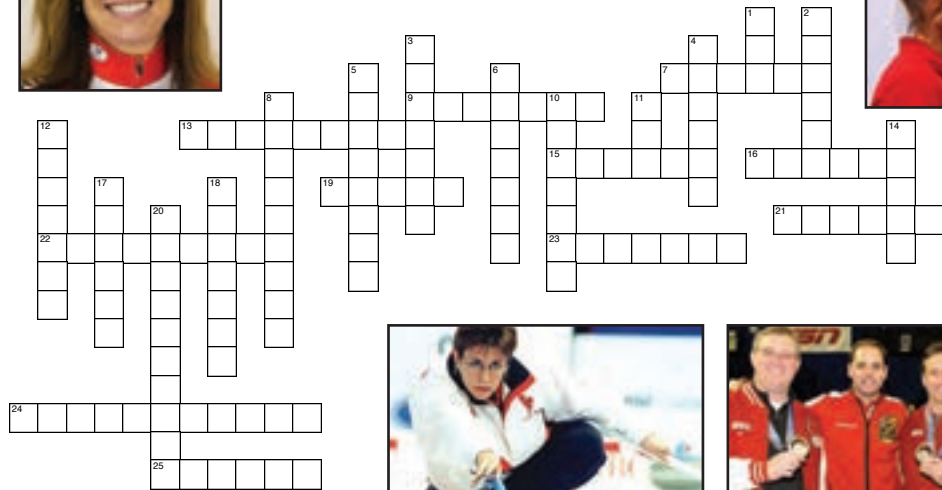
Favourite Olympian... hmmm... Donovan Bailey, Christine Sinclair, Usain Bolt... take your pick.

Favourite Olympian Curler? To date, I would probably say Jan Betker! I hope to one day say ... CHELSEA CAREY!!

To wear the Maple Leaf as Canada's representative to anything is an honour of the highest accord. To wear it in Sochi in the Olympics with this team would be an absolute dream come true. To wear it in Sochi with Chelsea.... Words cannot describe the joy that would bring to me.

ROCKIN' THE CURLING FUN

Olympics



ACROSS

- 7 Scot brings home gold for Great Britain in 2002
- 9 Olympic second shares name with Alberta town
- 13 Nagano party spoiler for men
- 15 Martin's gold opponents
- 16 Country with most Olympic golds
- 19 Home golder in 88
- 21 Silver at Nagano for Men
- 22 Golden Sandra
- 23 Swedish golden girl
- 24 Surprise of 2009 pre-trial men
- 25 Rock solid gold in 2006
- 8 Runner-up gal in 2009
- 10 Markku of many letters brought silver for this country
- 11 Salt Lake Canadian bronzer
- 12 Norwegian family with medal collection
- 14 49er rock tossing ambassador
- 17 Albertville a short jaunt for this German gold medal winner
- 18 Demo debut
- 20 2 words, Chinese rock magician

DOWN

- 1 Swiss Oly Miss in Torino
- 2 Smiling Minnesota skip earns a bronze in Italy
- 3 Vancouver silver lady
- 4 Canuck Lead in land of the Rising Sun
- 5 1924 Olympics first curling appearance
- 6 42 pounds of it

Time For Trivia

(Note: The 1991 Labatt Brier and Scott Tournament of Hearts constituted the 1991 trials for the 1992 Canadian teams bound for the Albertville Winter Olympics).



1. Name the only four Canadian skips to win Olympic gold in the sport of curling and their triumphant years.
2. Name seven other Olympic gold-medal winning skips in curling, their home nations and the years of the Games.
3. Two skips have recorded shutouts in Canadian Olympic Trials competition. Name the skips.
4. Name the skips of the teams that were rendered scoreless in those Trials tilts.
5. In each case, which Trials, when and where?
6. And the final scores at what point in the Trials?
7. Name the skips involved in the record low-score women's game in Olympic Trials history.
8. In which Trials, when and where?
9. And the final score was . . . ?
10. Name the skips involved in the record low-score men's game in Olympic Trials history.
11. In which Trials, when and where?
12. And the final scores were . . . ?

See Answers on Page 18



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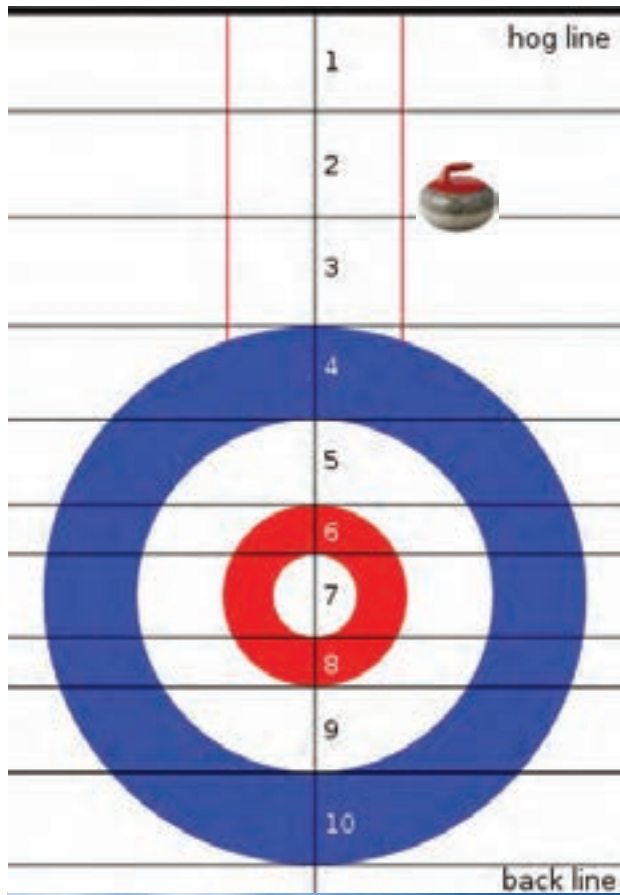
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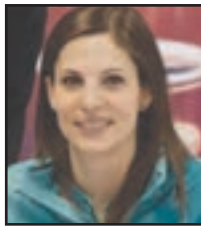

ROCKIN' THE CURLING FUN

YOU CALL THE SHOT



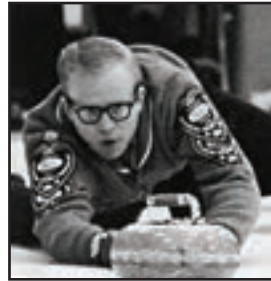
Scenario:

Rachel Homan (above) is up 3 with hammer in 9. Her opponent has put up a corner guard in an attempt to create some offense. As her lead Lisa Weagle (below) hits the hack, you call the shot!



FIND-A-WORD • ALBERTA

M	A	R	T	I	N	W	G	E	R	V	A	I	S	N	O	BAKKER
W	E	B	S	T	E	R	D	H	G	H	H	I	S	E	C	BALDWIN
S	S	S	R	X	D	S	I	R	R	O	M	J	H	S	O	BERNARD
X	B	B	R	R	O	H	V	C	F	J	A	L	B	S	N	FERBEY
S	W	A	L	C	H	U	K	J	K	G	I	E	A	E	N	GERVAIS
A	D	K	U	V	I	J	E	J	L	L	R	B	L	I	O	ISKIW
C	C	K	K	F	N	P	N	D	S	N	H	L	D	H	R	KENNEDY
D	E	E	O	H	S	G	N	G	A	P	O	O	W	T	S	KING
S	N	R	W	S	K	O	E	R	J	C	M	D	I	P	A	KLEIBRINK
S	O	F	I	K	I	D	D	V	R	R	O	E	N	E	S	LUKOWICH
N	X	G	C	I	N	R	Y	C	R	O	F	T	S	S	N	MAIR
O	I	H	H	W	G	V	G	L	W	K	E	J	K	A	I	MARTIN
M	N	O	R	T	H	C	O	T	T	K	R	G	Y	L	L	MOORE
M	S	D	D	A	R	S	K	L	E	I	B	R	I	N	K	MORRIS
I	S	D	A	K	L	I	B	H	L	K	E	R	O	O	M	NEDOHINS
S	O	N	N	E	N	B	E	R	G	O	Y	O	O	L	S	NIXON
																NORTHCOTT
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December 1-8 ~ MTS Centre, Winnipeg, MB						
DATE	TIME	DRAW	A	B	C	D
SUNDAY	1:00pm	1	MIDDAUGH LAWTON	HOMAN SWEETING	JONES CAREY	SONNENBERG NEDOHIN
	6:30pm	2	MARTIN MCEWEN	KOE EPPING	HOWARD MORRIS	JACOBS STOUGHTON
MONDAY	8:30am	3	HOMAN SONNENBERG	CAREY NEDOHIN	SWEETING LAWTON	JONES MIDDAUGH
	1:30pm	4	EPPING HOWARD	MCEWEN JACOBS	STOUGHTON MARTIN	MORRIS KOE
	6:30pm	5	SWEETING JONES	LAWTON SONNENBERG	NEDOHIN MIDDAUGH	CAREY HOMAN
TUESDAY	8:30am	6	STOUGHTON EPPING	MARTIN KOE	JACOBS HOWARD	MCEWEN MORRIS
	1:30pm	7	NEDOHIN SWEETING	MIDDAUGH HOMAN	SONNENBERG JONES	LAWTON CAREY
	6:30pm	8	KOE JACOBS	MORRIS STOUGHTON	EPPING MCEWEN	HOWARD MARTIN
WEDNESDAY	8:30am	9	SONNENBERG CAREY	JONES LAWTON	HOMAN NEDOHIN	MIDDAUGH SWEETING
	1:30pm	10	JACOBS MORRIS	HOWARD MCEWEN	KOE STOUGHTON	MARTIN EPPING
	6:30pm	11	JONES HOMAN	SWEETING CAREY	MIDDAUGH SONNENBERG	NEDOHIN LAWTON
THURSDAY	1:30pm	12	CAREY MIDDAUGH	NEDOHIN JONES	LAWTON HOMAN	SONNENBERG SWEETING
	6:30pm	13	HOWARD KOE	EPPING MORRIS	MARTIN JACOBS	STOUGHTON MCEWEN
	10:00pm	TB	women's tiebreaker if two (2) tiebreakers required			
FRIDAY	8:30am	14	MORRIS MARTIN	STOUGHTON HOWARD	MCEWEN KOE	EPPING JACOBS
	1:30pm	TB	tie-breakers (if necessary)			
	6:30pm	WSF		WOMEN'S SEMI FINAL		
SATURDAY	8:00am	TB	men's tiebreaker if two (2) tiebreakers required			
	1:30pm	MSF		MEN'S SEMI FINAL		
	6:30pm	WFN		WOMEN'S FINAL		
SUNDAY	2:00pm	MFN		MEN'S FINAL		

OLYMPIC TRIAL FLASHBACK • 1987

Moore, 'Luke' bring hometown flavour to Calgary

MORNING ROAR STAFF

Ed Lukowich of Calgary cracked a five-ender in the men's final and Linda Moore of North Vancouver scored a three-ender in the final of the women's event of the first-ever Canadian Olympic Curling Trials.

The competition to decide Canadian reps for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games demo event at Calgary involved eight men's and eight women's teams in round robins plus three-team playoffs, the exact draw they're employing at MTS Centre in Winnipeg for the seventh staging of Olympic trials.

Lukowich went on to win bronze at the Calgary Games while Moore's team of Lindsay Sparkes, Debbie Jones and Penny Ryan claimed gold.

Edmonton's Pat Ryan roared through the men's round robin at Calgary's Max Bell Centre with a 6-1 record, losing only to the inimitable Ed Werenich of Toronto.

But Werenich finished 4-3 along with Lukowich, Bernie Sparkes of Vancouver and Russ Howard, then of Penetanguishene, ON.

In tiebreakers, Werenich sidelined Howard 8-6 and Lukowich stomped Sparkes 9-4. Lukowich then eliminated Werenich 7-2 in the semi-final, setting up an all-Alberta final.

That debate went 1-1 after two ends and was still 1-1 after six. Ryan took a go-ahead single in the seventh before Lukowich and his team of John Ferguson, Neil Houston and Brent Syme exploded with the big five-ender to settle the issue. Ryan replied with a futile single in the ninth and the match ended 6-3.

Up the track in the men's scuffle were Kevin Adams of Montreal and Kirk Ziola of Estevan at 3-4 and Eugene Hritzuk of Saskatoon at 0-7. Ziola and Hritzuk skipped hand-picked line-ups designed solely for the Trials.

On the women's side, Moore and Winnipeg's Connie Laliberte ran up 5-2 records in a highly-competitive tourney while three other teams including Kathy Fahlman of Regina (with Sandra Schmirler at third), Pat Sanders of Victoria and Colleen Jones of Halifax each amassed 4-3 marks.

Continued on 19



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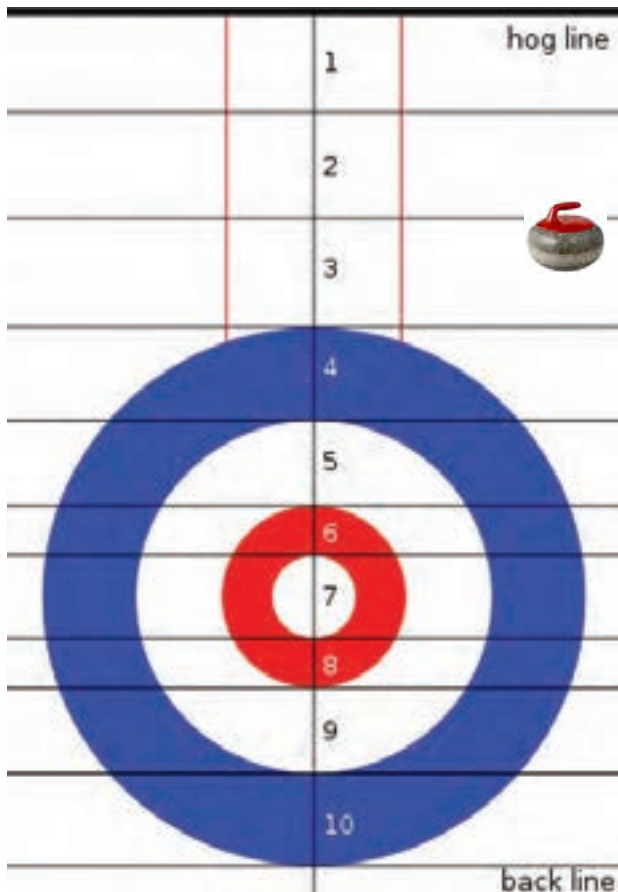
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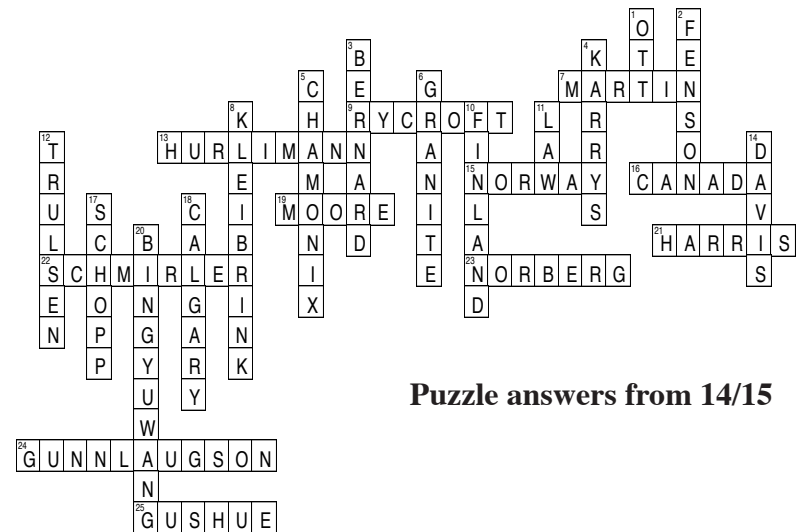
You Call The Shot: It's a "Weagle," of course, formerly known as a TICK and not a dynamic until the free-guard zone rules came into play. The idea is to move the guard but you cannot remove it, and have your shooter exit play; so a shimmy and get out of the way, and Weagle has lent her name to it.

Time For Trivia

Answers

- Linda Moore (1988), Sandra Schmirler (1998), Brad Gushue (2006), Kevin Martin (2010).
- Eigil Ramsfjell, Norway (1988), Andrea Schoepp, Germany (1991), Urs Dick, Switzerland (1991), Patrick Hurlimann, Switzerland (1998), Rhona Martin, Great Britain (2002), Pat Trulsen, Norway (2002), Anette Norberg, Sweden (2006 and 2009).
- Pat Sanders, Dave Smith.
- Colleen Jones, Wayne Middaugh.
- Sanders over Jones (1987 at Calgary), Smith over Middaugh (1997 at Brandon).
- Sanders 7-0 in a tiebreaker, Smith 8-0 in Round Six).
- Colleen Jones, Chris More.
- 1987, Calgary.
- Jones 3-1.
- Tie: Kevin Martin and Jeff Stoughton; Wayne Middaugh and Kevin Park)
- Martin-Stoughton (1991 at Hamilton), Middaugh-Park (2001 at Regina).
- Martin 3-2, Middaugh 3-2.

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B O A B S N
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K U I E R L I O R
K K N N N D H R
E O I N N A W
R W S K O E R D I N
S O I K I D O O T N
N N C I N R Y C R O F T N
O H W G W F E A
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Puzzle answers from 14/15

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Moore's deuce in 10 brought home gold in '88

CONTINUED FROM 17

Moore won four in a row out of the gate, then lost back-to-back to Kathie Ellwood of Winnipeg and Sanders before doubling up on Laliberte 8-4 in the last round.

In tiebreakers, Sanders blanked Jones 7-0 and pummelled Fahlman 7-2. Laliberte ditched Sanders 6-4 in the semi-final,

then stole in front 2-1 in the final and maintained control after a swap of deuces in the

seventh and eighth panels. But Moore blanked the ninth and made use of the hammer in the final end to count a winning trio.

Teams skipped by Chris More and Ellwood of Winnipeg and Marilyn Bodogh of St. Catharines each logged in a 2-5.

At the Calgary Games, Lukowich and Hansjuerg Lips of Switzerland led the round robin with 5-2 records but Switzerland's 4-3 win in Round One left Lukowich in a semi-final position against Norway's Eigill Ramsfjell who had

survived 6-4 and 6-3 tiebreakers over Dan-Ola Eriksson of Sweden and Bud Somerville of the U.S. respectively.

Ramsfjell's momentum carried him to an 8-5 semi-final win over Lukowich leaving Canada with a bronze medal. Norway then pummelled Switzerland 10-2 in the gold-medal match.

Moore and Sweden's Elisabeth Hogstrom registered 5-2 records in the women's round robin while Trine Trulsen of Norway, Lisa Schoneberg of the U.S. and Andrea Schoepp of

Germany were 4-3.

In tiebreakers, Norway ousted the Yanks 10-7 and Germany 8-4.

Because Sweden had won its round-robin tilt with Canada, Moore was relegated to the semi where she scored two in the 10th end with hammer for a 6-5 victory over the Norwegians.

Canada notched another 10th-end deuce with hammer against Sweden in the final for a 7-5 gold-medal triumph.



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