

# EYE OPENER

Thursday, March 22, 2018 | An Official Publication of Curling Canada and the World Curling Federation



**CANADA 8 SOUTH KOREA 4**

**CANADA 8 SWEDEN 4**

**ONE-TWO  
PUNCH!**

**Jones knocks off  
her chief rivals  
to claim top spot**







**Team Canada's Jennifer Jones (left) began a terrific Wednesday by beating South Korea. She then doubled up on her pleasure with a rather comfortable win over Olympic goal medallist Anna Hasselborg of Sweden.**

# Really big day

## Canada on roll in race to playoffs

By **JOHN KOROBAK**

*Eye Opener Writer*

Jennifer Jones and Team Canada completed a sweep of the 2018 Olympic gold and silver medallists Wednesday to move to the top of the standings as the only unbeaten team at the Ford World Women's Curling Championship.

Jones stole points in two ends and scored three in the seventh to drop Anna Hasselborg of Sweden, the gold medallists from PeyongChang, South Korea, 8-4 in eight ends.

Earlier in the day Jones, backed by third Kaithlyn Lawes, second Jill Officer, lead Dawn McEwen, alternate Shannon Birchard and coaches Wendy Morgan and Elaine Dagg-Jackson, beat the silver medallists, EunJung Kim of South Korea by the same 8-4 score.

"It was a really big day and we obviously knew that coming in and we wanted to make sure we did what we could to win both

games," Officer said. "So it's nice we were able to come out on top in both."

The results left Canada at 8-0, Sweden 8-1 and South Korea at 6-2. Victoria Moiseeva of Russia (6-2) beat Daniela Jentsch of Germany (1-7) 6-2 to move into a third-place tie with South Korea.

Canada scored singles in the first, second and fourth ends before stealing two in the fifth to take control of the game against Hasselborg, who had beaten Kim in the Olympic gold-medal final last month.

"It was great for us," Jones said of the start. "We struggled the last few games in the first few ends. We could have got a deuce in the first if I had made that draw so we were happy with how we started."

And how they ended, as well.

"I felt like that was one of our first games we put together from start to finish so we're really happy with where we're at," said Jones, the 2014 Olympic gold medallist and 2008 world champion. "Still lots of games to go, but we're trending in the right direction."

Hasselborg, with third Sara McManus,

second Agnes Knockenhauer, lead Sofia Mabergs, alternate Jennie Waahlin and coaches Maria Prytz and Peja Lindholm, struggled with the ice throughout the game and never did find their draw weight. Hasselborg was heavy with her last-rock draw in the second to let Canada steal and she was short in the fifth when Jones stole two.

"We didn't manage the ice, we were missing on the wrong side and you cannot do that against this team," said Hasselborg, who had a game-low 64 per cent shooting percentage. "It was a tough one. We didn't manage where to put the broom ... our misses made it worse instead of better."

And while it is only one loss and they're in no real danger of missing the playoffs, Hasselborg wasn't pleased.

One loss "that's what I will try to think when I go home tonight, but now I'm (upset) of course."

Hasselborg had also won earlier in the day, scoring four deuces to beat Germany 8-4.

Canada went on a 5-0 scoring streak the final three ends to beat Kim. It was a case of

Jones and company figuring out draw weight after the sixth end, when both teams said the ice changed, and Kim couldn't.

"We kind of struggled early with our draw weight but we finished strong," said Jones. "(The ice) was probably about 10 feet heavier than it had been. It's hard to believe you have to throw that much more weight and we kept coming up short. Eventually we began throwing harder and good things happened. Made some really good draws, some big shots when we had to, and it changed the game."

### Correction

On page 2 of Wednesday's Eye Opener, a photo was not identified correctly. The photo was of Chinese skip Yilun Jiang and not Japan's Tori Koana. We apologize for the error.





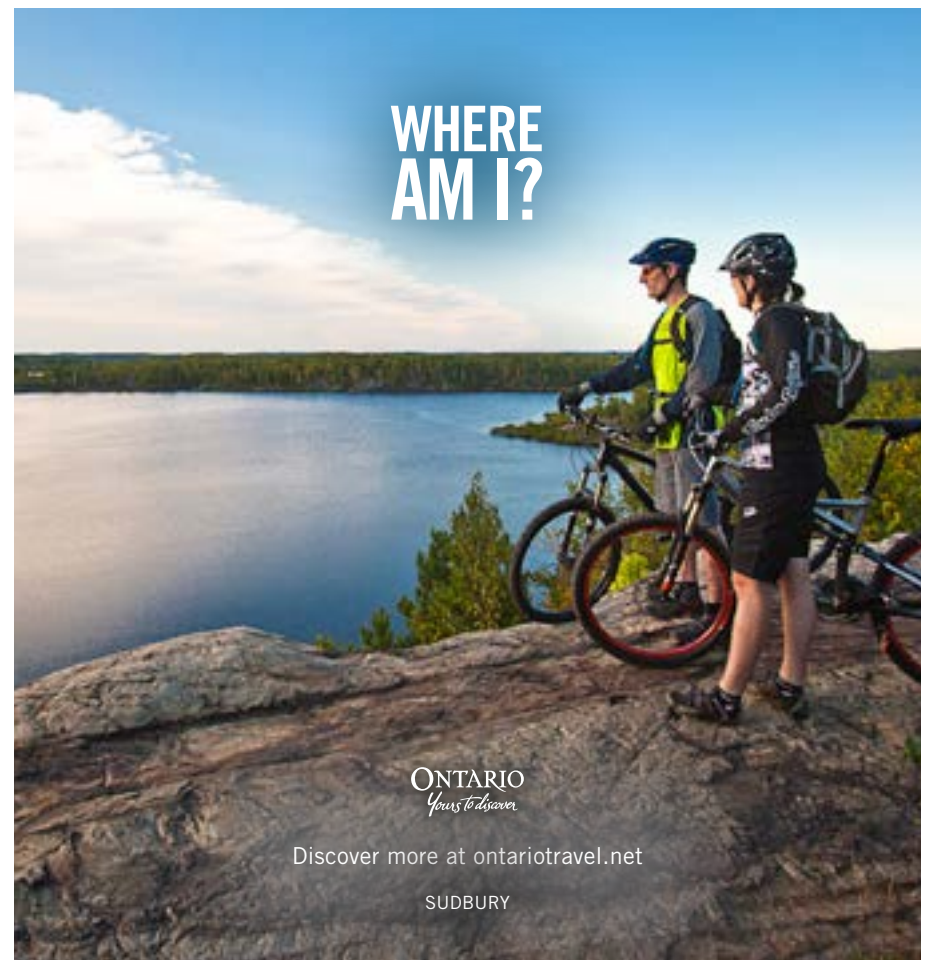
The South Koreans enjoy an on-ice laugh.



There have been plenty of South Korean curling fans this week.

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# A love/hate relationship



Curlers at major events have to face the daily challenge of answering questions from the media.

**A**thletes and the media: to say it's a love/hate relationship would be an understatement.

All of us know we have to answer media questions, both after great wins and tough losses. Usually, once you've done it for a while, you can basically predict most of what you will get asked.

Sometimes though, it still gets to the athletes. These interactions have given us some of the most entertaining moments in sports. References such as "I'm just here so I don't get fined" or "We're talkin' about PRACTICE" are common pop culture nomenclature.

I've been quite lucky for the most part when it comes to media. I've rarely been misquoted, or had my words twisted (though it has happened the odd time).

That being said, I do vividly remember doing my post-game interview after losing my first provincial women's final in 2011. I was very emotional, and answered the questions very honestly. My description of the loss was "devastating", which it truly was at the time. I got absolutely ripped to shreds on social media and in chat forums, and in all honesty, I still



CHELSEA CAREY

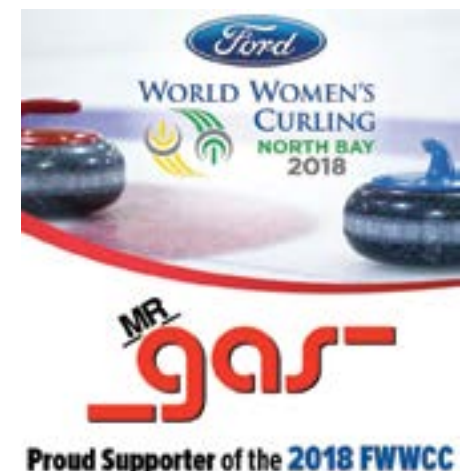
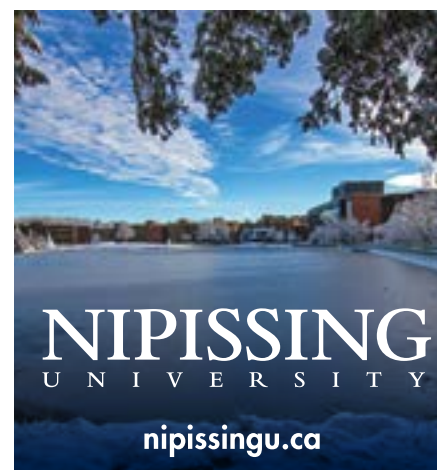
do not fully understand why. What I've learned since is that it's often a lose-lose situation. You will get criticized for being phony if you give scripted, "canned" answers, but you'll be criticized for being too honest as well.

I have softened my approach a bit, but I'm still more honest in interviews than media advisors would like me to be. This is purposeful in my case, because when I listen to other athletes, I want to hear their real thoughts and feelings, good or bad. I respect those kinds of answers, and while I'm sure they get grief for it the same way I do, that is what I look for in interviews. I'll stop listening to an

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# with media

interview that's full of answers that feel contrived to me – the ones you're advised to say. It's a common joke about young hockey players, who go through extensive media training, using all the prescribed idioms like "there's no I in team".

Of course, the actual interviews aren't quite that bad, but you can see where the reference comes from. It's quite clear they've been coached to stick to certain answers, and they generally follow instructions, which makes the interviews quite boring and predictable. But it also means they dodge the criticism associated with honesty.

This is an incredibly small price to pay for the media exposure that our sport is lucky enough to have. I would never wish away the media presence at our event, just to avoid answering tough questions. That's my job, it's part of the deal, and we all know that going in, so there's no reason to be ill prepared.

Most amateur sports would kill for the coverage we get as curlers in Canada, and we are appreciative. I hear often from media that curlers are their favourite athletes to deal with, because we are

so accommodating and pleasant. I think we do all strive to be this way, because we know how good it is for the sport, more so than for ourselves.

As an athlete, you develop relationships with the media, which makes it a lot of fun. We all know Al Cameron very well, as we often work with him and he does a ton behind the scenes to help us. Personally, I'm lucky enough to have a great relationship with many of the media members I've worked with over the years. I've been incredibly humbled by stories written by Donna Spencer, Melissa Martin, and Devin Heroux, just to name a few.

Even the best ones sometimes ask you an unfortunate question. They generally know they have, and I've actually received a number of after-the-fact apologies from reporters who regretted either the question or their phrasing of it.

I have also apologized to a number of them when I've regretted my reaction upon reflection. With most of the media I have ever dealt with, there's a great deal of mutual respect, and a constructive working relationship.

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# Spotlight on: U.S.A.

## VARIOUS CLUBS

### Q&A

**What is the one thing you wish you could do if given the chance?** Sky dive.

**Which sitcom character do you relate to?** Robin from How I Met Your Mother.

**What's your weirdest habit?** TV volume has to be on an even number. I'm a little bit OCD.

**What's your biggest pet peeve?** White socks curling.

**What's your fast-food guilty pleasure?** McDonald's french fries.

**What's your favourite vacation destination?** Backpacking in Italy and Greece!

**What is the strangest thing you've ever eaten?** Beluga whale fat and skin. They called it Eskimo ice cream.

**What is your favourite breakfast meal?** Bacon, eggs and hashbrowns!

**Describe your life in one word:** Passionate.

**Beer or wine?** Beer around the camp fire, but wine while watching The Bachelor.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?** All-inclusive beach vacation for a little rest and recovery after this season.

**What is one of the things you would put on your "bucket"**

## jamie sinclair

**AGE:** 26

**BORN:** Anchorage, Alaska

**LIVES:** Saint Paul, Minn.

**FAMILY:** Single

**HOBBIES:** Woodworking,

Construction

**OCCUPATION:** Curler

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:**

English, French, Spanish

**YEARS ON TEAM:** 2

**list?** See all the wonders of the world. I've already seen three.

**If you could go back or forward in time, where would you go?** I would go back and meet my ancestors, see how they lived back in the day.

**What was your favorite toy as a kid?** Lego. My brothers and I used to build villages on the living room floor.

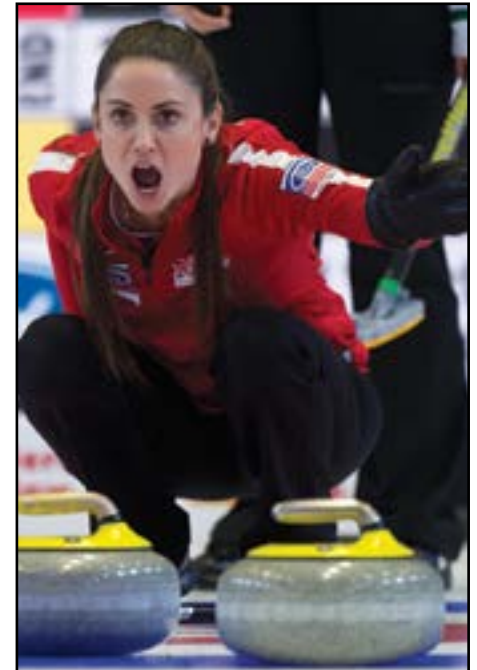
**What is your dream car?** White, two-door, soft top Jeep.

**If you could have one super power, what would it be?** Teleportation. Would save so much time on travel!

**If you knew that this was your last day on earth, how would you spend it?** With my family. Just hanging out and laughing together.

**Do you believe in the after-life?** I am Christian so I believe in heaven.

## SKIP



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**THIRD**



alex  
carlson

**Essentials**  
**AGE:** 29  
**BORN:** Saint Paul, Minn.  
**LIVES:** Saint Paul, Minn.  
**FAMILY:** Single  
**HOBBIES:** Board and yard games, sewing, hanging out with my cat  
**OCCUPATION:** Medical Device Quality Consultant  
**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:** English

**SECOND**



vicky  
persinger

**Essentials**  
**AGE:** 25  
**BORN:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
**LIVES:** Fairbanks & Saint Paul, Minn.  
**FAMILY:** Single  
**HOBBIES:** Outdoors, exploring Alaska  
**OCCUPATION:** Senior Title Assistant: Yukon Title Company  
**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:** English

**LEAD**



monica  
walker

**Essentials**  
**AGE:** 31  
**BORN:** Concord, Mass.  
**LIVES:** Saint Paul, Minn.  
**FAMILY:** Single  
**HOBBIES:** Hiking, soccer  
**OCCUPATION:** Curler  
**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:** English

**FACTS**



**Formal name:** United States of America  
**Local name:** United States  
**Local formal name:** United States of America  
**Location:** North America  
**Status:** UN member country  
**Capital City:** Washington, D.C.  
**Main cities:** New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco  
**Population:** 328 million  
**Area:** 9,372,610 sq. km  
**Currency:** 1 US dollar = 100 cents  
**Languages:** English, Spanish, and over 30 others  
**Religion:** Protestant, Roman Catholic, Judaism

**U.S.A. AT THE WORLDS**  
**Last five years:**  
 2017: Nina Roth 6-5  
 2016: Erika Brown 6-5  
 2015: Aileen Sormunen 3-8  
 2014: Allison Pottinger 6-5  
 2013: Erica Brown 6-5  
**Last championship** — Debbie McCormick 2003  
**World titles** — 1

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ANNA HASSELBORG

# I am woman ... HEAR ME ROAR!

By **DAVE KOMOSKY**

*Eye Opener Editor*

You see them all the time during curling season: images in newspapers or on television of women screaming.

They are the “classic” action shots of women curling — photos of skips and thirds, their eyes bugged out, foreheads furrowed, and mouths agape, barking out orders to their sweepers.

For a brief instant, these otherwise classy ladies are turned into some sort of demonic-like creatures.

That’s not to say women don’t scream when they are away from the curling ice. They do. Husbands

and teenagers know all about it. But those images are not usually captured in newspapers or TSN in high definition for everybody across the land to see.

The Eye Opener is a major offender. We will run several photos of players at this week’s Ford World Women’s Curling Championship who are yelling themselves hoarse (see above).

But what do the players think about them? They must see them.

Surprisingly, many don’t mind them. They see it as part of the game,

“When I look at them, I see a curler in action,” says U.S. skip Jamie Sinclair. “That’s how we express ourselves.

“Yes, there’s a lot of screaming out there, but that’s just the way it is. They are OK.”

Swedish second Agnes Knochenhauer hasn’t had many of those screaming photos take of her because she plays second, but she has seen plenty of her skip Anna Hasselborg.

“They’re mostly funny . . . weird,” says Knochenhauer. “Yes, the players don’t look their prettiest. But we accept that’s part of the game. We never think of how we look when we scream. We just put in the effort. Those pictures show more of the sport than just sitting in the hack.”

Denmark skip Angelina Jensen is mixed on the photos.

“I hate them and I love them because first of all they show a lot of action in the game and you are committed to what you are doing,” she says.

“But they also make me look like, oooh, she looks dangerous!”

Jensen thinks editors should be more sensitive when choosing their photos.

We’ve talked about this a few times,” said Jensen, “about why are they doing that. It’s not very flattering. It’s always the skip or vice skip who look like maniacs.

“I think those people (editors) should look at the pictures and say ‘she doesn’t look very good in this one’, and then not use it.

“It’s not all about selling the game, it’s also about selling the players, and if the players look awful, then I think it’s not worth putting in. Put in a good picture instead and they will sell a lot of tickets.”

But what are you going to do? Stop yelling?

The answer: not likely.



# Her home away from home

## U.S. skip Sinclair registered out of Charlotte, a curling hotbed

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**

Eye Opener Writer

Representing the United States Curling Association, from Charlotte, North Carolina.....

North Carolina? Curling? It's not the introduction one would expect, especially for the Jamie Sinclair team that's located in St. Paul, Minn. But it's true. The 26-year-old Sinclair, born in Alaska, raised and trained in curling in Ontario and now living in St. Paul, is registered out of North Carolina.

"I know it's super confusing," said Sinclair, who competed for Ontario twice in the Canadian junior championships and is here as the United States women's champion. "Three years ago, when I tried out for the high-performance program, I had to put a United States curling club as my home curling club and I really didn't have any connections to a club in the United States because I hadn't curled there.

"I had gone to Charlotte to teach a couple of clinics and help grow the sport there and I played in their summer spiel. And it was just

a great group of people, so I thought that was a good connection, so I put them down as my home club. But I never lived in Charlotte."

North Carolina wouldn't sound like the hot-bed of curling, but Sinclair says there's a passionate following for the sport to the point where Charlotte has a dedicated curling rink.

"I think it's amazing," she said. "Their spirit for the game is unreal. They just absolutely love it."

Turns out some folks got watching curling in a previous Olympics and found the game intriguing enough they tried playing the game themselves.

"They were curling on hockey ice, converting it one night a week. After the Olympics they were like, this sport is so cool we have to build a dedicated curling facility. It only took them four years and next thing you know they had a dedicated three sheeter in Charlotte, North Carolina."



See **USA**  
Page 15



Jamie Sinclair says curling in Charlotte is a growing sport.

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# Spotlight on: **Russia**

## VARIOUS CLUBS

### Q&A

(With all members of the team)

**Q Do you have nicknames within the team and what's the story behind them?**

**Victoria:** In Russia it's normal to have a short name instead of your official one, that's why everyone calls me Vita, sometimes people don't even know that my official name is Victoria.

**Galina:** In stores I always call myself Gala, because my name isn't that common for foreigners.

**Julia:** Guzya, because of my last name.

**Yulia:** Sometimes my team calls me the Owllet.

**Q What is your guilty pleasure?**

**Victoria:** The TV show, "Compulsive Obsessive Cleaners".

**Uliana:** I like fast food.

**Galina:** I like McDonald's.

**Julia:** I like the late snacks, even though I know it's bad and that I'll regret it.

**Yulia:** I like to listen to old Russian chanson music sometimes and my team makes fun of me that I know all these songs.

**Q Where's the best place you have visited as a curler?**

## victoria moiseeva

**AGE:** 27

**BORN:** St. Petersburg, Russia

**LIVES:** St. Petersburg,

**FAMILY:** Single

**HOBBIES:** Photography

**OCCUPATION:** Curler

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:**

English, Russian

**YEARS ON TEAM:** 6

**Victoria:** We played a qualifying event in Kussnacht-am-Rigi in Switzerland. It's a beautiful place.

**Uliana:** Niagara Falls.

**Galina:** Niagara Falls.

**Julia:** Fredericton (New Brunswick, Canada), where the Everest Curling Challenge 2017 took place.

**Yulia:** Niagara Falls.

**Q What career would you have if you weren't a curler?**

**Victoria:** I think I'd be a photographer.

**Uliana:** Physical education teacher.

**Julia:** I would continue participating in track and field tournaments and I would want to be a teacher.

**Yulia:** I would work with my mum at her cynological dogs club (dog training and dog handling).

### SKIP



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**THIRD**



julia  
portunova

**Essentials**  
**AGE:** 23  
**BORN:** Kaliningrad, Russia  
**LIVES:** Kaliningrad, Russia  
**FAMILY:** Single  
**HOBBIES:** Yoga  
**AGE STARTED CURLING:** 12  
**OCCUPATION:** Curler  
**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:** Russian  
**YEARS ON TEAM:** 6

**SECOND**



galina  
arsenkina

**Essentials**  
**AGE:** 26  
**BORN:** Moscow, Russia  
**LIVES:** Moscow, Russia  
**FAMILY:** Single  
**HOBBIES:** Snowboarding  
**AGE STARTED CURLING:** 14  
**OCCUPATION:** Curler  
**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:** English, Russian

**LEAD**



julia  
guzieva

**Essentials**  
**AGE:** 29  
**BORN:** Stepnogorsk, Kazakhstan  
**LIVES:** Kaliningrad, Russia  
**FAMILY:** Single  
**HOBBIES:** Cooking  
**AGE STARTED CURLING:** 18  
**OCCUPATION:** Curler  
**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:** English, Russian

**FACTS**



**Formal name:** Russian Federation  
**Local name:** Rossiya  
**Local formal name:** Rossiyskaya Federatsiya  
**Location:** Europe/Asia  
**Status:** UN member country  
**Capital City:** Moscow (Moskva)  
**Main cities:** St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Vladivostok, Nizhny Novgorod  
**Population:** 144 million  
**Area:** 17,075,000 sq. km  
**Currency:** 1 ruble = 100 kopeks  
**Language:** Russian  
**Religions:** Russian Orthodox, Muslim, Buddhist

**RUSSIA AT THE WORLDS**

**Last five years:**  
 2017: Anna Sidorova 8-3 (Silver)  
 2016: Anna Sidorova 8-3  
 2015: Anna Sidorova 8-3 (Bronze)  
 2014: Anna Sidorova 8-3 (Bronze)  
 2013: Anna Sidorova 6-5  
**Last championship —** N/A  
**World titles —** 0

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# WORLD SCOREBOARD



## STANDINGS

	W	L
Canada (Jones)	8	0
Sweden (Hasselborg)	8	1
S. Korea (Kim)	6	2
Russia (Moiseeva)	6	2
Czech Rep. (Kubeskova)	4	4
Japan (Koana)	4	4
U.S. (Sinclair)	4	4
Swiss (Feltscher)	3	5
China (Jiang)	3	6
Scotland (Fleming)	3	6
Denmark (Jensen)	2	6
Italy (Gaspari)	2	7
Germany (Jentsch)	1	7

## LINESCORES

### Draw 12

#### 9 a.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Swiss (Feltscher)	*0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	— 7
Denmark (Jensen)	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	— 5

Sweden (Hasselborg)	*0	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	x	— 8
Germany (Jentsch)	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	x	— 4

USA (Sinclair)	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	2	0	— 8
South Korea (Kim)	*1	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	— 9

Scotland (Fleming)	*2	0	2	1	1	0	1	3	0	x	— 10
Japan (Koana)	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	x	— 7

### Draw 13

#### 2 p.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
USA (Sinclair)	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	— 8
China (Jiang)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	— 4

Canada (Jones)	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	x	— 8
South Korea (Kim)	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	x	— 4

Italy (Gaspari)	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	— 7
Denmark (Jensen)	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	0	1	— 8

## SCHEDULE

### TODAY

#### 9 a.m. Draw

A—SWE vs. JAP; B—SUI vs. CZE; C—RUS vs. CAN; D—DEN vs. SCO

#### 2 p.m. Draw

A—CHN vs. ITA; B—DEN vs. USA; C—GER vs. CZE; D—SUI vs. KOR

#### 7 p.m. Draw

A—GER vs. USA; B—RUS vs. SWE; C—KOR vs. JAP; D—CAN vs. ITA

Russia (Moiseeva)	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	0	x	— 9
Czech Rep. (Kubeskova)	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	x	— 5

### Draw 14

#### 7 p.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Russia (Moiseeva)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	x	— 6
Germany (Jentsch)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	x	— 2

Japan (Koana)	0	2	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	— 8
Italy (Gaspari)	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	— 6

China (Jiang)	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	— 4
Scotland (Fleming)	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	— 8

Sweden (Hasselborg)	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	x	x	— 4
Canada (Jones)	1	1	0	1	2	0	3	0	x	x	— 8

\* — Last rock

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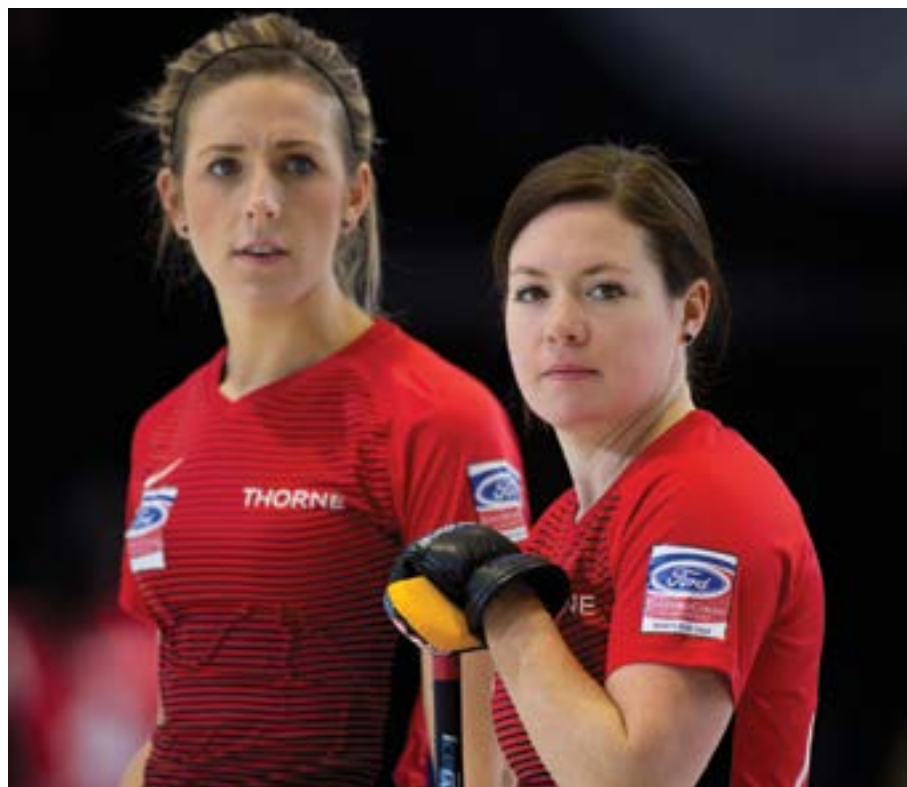
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Vicky Persinger (left) and Monica Walker of the U.S.A. both played in the 2015 world women's championship.

# USA

## FROM PAGE 11

Sinclair, third Alex Carlson, second Vicky Persinger and lead Monica Walker were the last team declared for the Ford World Women's Curling Championship, having won the U.S. nationals the week before they had to get to North Bay. So it's been hectic.

"It's been a whirlwind, I think that's the best way to describe it," said Sinclair. "We went through the roller-coaster of nationals, the high of that, then chaos in the couple of days between nationals and coming here. It was literally just a couple of days and a lot had to get done, but we were able to mentally and physically rest and recover from that."

Born in Alaska, Sinclair spent most of her childhood in Ottawa where she fell in love with curling, before moving to St. Paul three years ago.

"Both my parents were in the military. Dad was an F-18 pilot and mom was an air traffic controller. So we moved around a ton," she explained. "My brothers were born in Alberta, we spent a lot of time in Quebec, different places and my parents finally retired in Ottawa."

Sinclair skipped Ontario at the 2012 and 2013 Canadian junior championships and is now a two-time U.S. women's champion. Her team won the U.S. title in 2017 but

qualification requirements prevented them from playing in the world championship.

"Little bit of a tough pill to swallow on that one," Sinclair said of 2017 ruling. "It's a point system. Good thing about this year is it came down to us and (Corey) Christianson and whoever won that final was going to worlds."

Sinclair and her team won that game 6-5.

"There was a lot on the line for both teams. So it was good, learning how to deal with that experience."

Persinger and Walker both played for the U.S. in the 2015 world championship, so the team leaned heavily on their experience.

"Coming into this we had a good meeting and was it very much them sharing their experiences on what to expect, lessons learned from their past trips to the worlds, so we could learn as much as we could in a very short time," said Sinclair.

"It was a little tricky with nationals being so close. Just winning and then having the right to go to the worlds, just digesting that was a lot of emotions for me. And being my first worlds, we definitely have expectations, but at the end of the day we're here to learn, do the best we can, enjoy the experience and soak it all in. I think there's going to be a lot more to come so we're just getting our feet wet in this one."



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John Shuster's Olympic gold-medal win could help curling grow in the U.S.

## Boom time for U.S. curling?

John Shuster's Olympic curling gold medal could have a huge impact on the growth of the sport in the United States. Not just because it was the first U.S. Olympic gold medal in curling, but also the personality of the players on his team – Tyler George, Matt Hamilton and John Landsteiner.

"I think it's just the beginning of what's going to happen because of that victory," says Jamie Sinclair, skip of the U.S. team here at the Ford World Women's Curling Championship. "I think that the sport is going to grow in the United States, people are interested in it not only because of their win, but also the characters on that team. The guys are very interesting and a lot of good personalities so they kind of captivate the audience, get people interested in the sport and it's definitely going to help grow it."

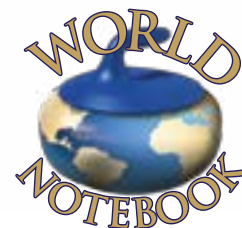
■■■

Money, what money?

With North Bay hosting its first ever world curling championship, there are a number of questions being asked by the fans, including, how much is the prize money and how is it split?

Well, there is no prize money for the world championships. Winning is all about prestige, honour and self-satisfaction.

Curlers do earn money on the World Curling Tour. Last year Canada's Rachel



Homan topped the women's list with about \$132,000 and Canada's Jennifer Jones is the current money leader with \$129,798. On the men's side Sweden's Niklas Edin topped last year at about \$192,000 and is leading this year at \$108,762.

■■■

They are Olympic champions chasing the Olympic-world championship double gold and, says Swedish skip Anna Hasselborg, it is a tiring pursuit.

"Every game is a challenge because we are tired," she said Wednesday. "But we just acknowledge that and just try to enjoy when we're on the ice and take in the crowd."

The North Bay crowd, the atmosphere inside the Memorial Gardens and the adrenalin of seeking the gold medal is keeping the team going.

"To play the Olympics and then a worlds in Canada," said Hasselborg. "is almost like the same dream."