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A change of scenery
to Alberta for Neufeld
could net Brier title

PAGE 13

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ON PAGE 3

Tim Hortons BRIER

BRANDON 2019

Down comes hammer

Jacobs keeps blowing away opponents

By **GRANT GRANGER**

Tankard Times Writer

Brad Jacobs and his Northern Ontario squad keeps on putting the hammer down and hammering and hammering and hammering their opposition at the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier presented by AGI.

For the sixth time in six games, Northern Ontario (Sault Ste. Marie) won the draw to the button for last rock in the first end. And for the sixth time Jacobs, third Ryan Fry, second E.J. Harnden, lead Ryan Harnden and coach Adam Kingsbury rode it to victory. This time it was 9-5 over Manitoba's Mike McEwen on Tuesday night.

With one round left in the preliminary Pool A play, Northern Ontario has outscored its opponents 51-21.

"We're obviously curling virtually lights out and we're getting a lot of breaks, getting a lot of misses, but we're also applying a lot of pressure on teams," said Jacobs, who admitted he wouldn't want to play his team at this point. "And as a result we're getting some key misses when we need them and we're taking advantage of opportunities and we're winning games

POOL A

easily. It is a good feeling, but the hardest part is maintaining that."

While it might not have been the final nail in the coffin for the McEwen-skipped team's (Winnipeg, 3-3) chances to make the final four, it's close. Although a victory in their final Pool A game against Prince Edward Island (1-5) would guarantee Manitoba a tiebreaker to get into the Championship Pool. If they do qualify, teams take their preliminary pool record into the round-robin against the top four teams from Pool B, and for Manitoba to already have three losses is far from ideal.

"We're kind of in the trench and there's no turning back. Everybody out of the trench and over," said McEwen, who noted Manitoba lost the draw to the button by four millimetres. "We have maybe seven, eight sudden-death games. I don't think



Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs has been a dominating force this week at the Tim Hortons Brier.

you want to get to four losses. You've seen where most cases that doesn't get you anything. So we've got to win out."

Team Wild Card, skipped by Edmonton's Brendan Bottcher, kept pace with Northern Ontario at 5-1 by dismissing Quebec's Martin Crete (Levis, 2-4) 10-4.

"That first game (a 10-2 loss to Northern Ontario in the first draw) was rough for us and it took a few games for us to settle down and rebound from that. I really feel like we're trending up and playing well. Hopefully we can get one more win tomorrow and come into the championship

round with the best stats around," said Bottcher.

Their final Pool A game is against the surprising Saskatchewan squad skipped by Kirk Muyres (Saskatoon) who improved to 4-2 by downing 0-6 Newfoundland/Labrador (Andrew Symonds, St. John's) 9-5.

With the win, Saskatchewan clinched a tiebreaker.

"We're playing good, we're coming on a little bit," said Muyres. "If we win tomorrow we'll be 5-2 and man, we're sitting nice for getting into the playoffs.

The 28-year-old skip said the biggest

strides his team has made is in composure.

"It was nerve wracking for a while, but now we're just out there curling," said Muyres. "Every game's going to be a must win from here on out."

The only other team with a chance to make the championship pool — other than Northern Ontario, Wild Card, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — is Yukon Territory, skipped by Jon Solberg (Whitehorse). They are also 3-3 after defeating P.E.I. (John Likely, Charlottetown) 8-7 in an extra end. But their final game this afternoon is against Northern Ontario.

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Terry (left) and Grant Odishaw grew up playing together.



Tankard Times

EDITOR
Dave Komosky
WRITERS
Grant Granger
John Korobanik

PHOTOGRAPHER
Mike Burns, Jr.
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Corinne Ball

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They're brothers in arms

Odishaw boys back together at Brier after seven-year break

By **GRANT GRANGER**

Tankard Times Writer

Competing in the Brier never gets old even though players do.

Just ask the Odishaw brothers. Skip Terry, 54, and lead Grant, 56, are representing New Brunswick at the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, for the first time in seven years.

"After seven years? It wouldn't matter if it was after one year, it would still be fantastic. Seven years makes it a little better, though," said Terry, who skipped New Brunswick at the 1998 Brier in Winnipeg and the 2012 Brier in Saskatoon.

Grant is competing in his ninth Brier, but the only other time with his brother was in 2012. He calls playing against the big boys — like the Odishaws, third Jordan Pinder, 34 and second Marc Lecocq, 53, did on Monday morning when they battled the top-ranked team in the country in Alberta skipped by Kevin Koe — pros versus Joes.

New Brunswick had a 6-3 lead after five

ends but eventually succumbed 12-7. If it had been an eight-end game, though, New Brunswick would have won since they were ahead 7-6 at that point.

"It's tough against the pro curlers nowadays that do it full time," said Grant. "We realize that and we're more competitive now at the senior level. We were warming up for seniors in our (men's) playdowns, and it worked the last few years, we really played well when we got to the Canadian seniors."

They finished second at last year's Canadian seniors and third the year before. This year they won't get the chance.

"Our skip, or one of our teammates responsible who puts in all our entries for the men's and the seniors misread the deadline date. We were four days late getting our entry in," said Grant. "(The Brier) would have been a beautiful warmup (for the 2019 Everest Canadian senior championships in Chilliwack,

B.C., March 22 to 28). We don't usually get that, so we're really disappointed, it really hurt."

Although they grew up playing together, they didn't for most of their competitive careers.

"As sibling rivalries go we went our own way thinking each one of us was better than the other," said Terry, a Moncton realtor. "We had to let things cool down."

Grant loves being beside his bro even though it's his younger brother calling the shots.

"We went toe-to-toe for a number of years and it's way better to curl with him than against. It's better at home at family suppers," said Grant. "It took a while to learn how we best curled together. I've learned I cannot be upset, I have to be cool, calm and try to be supportive and just not get mad. And that was a learning curve because I was just like Russ (Howard), I was intense, I wanted to win and if there was a wrong call I let them know."

"We don't get mad at each other anymore. He's a little more intense than I am. I was probably more intense, but I think he is now,

but that's just the position he's in."

Grant played in the 1991 and 1996 Briers before curling legend Russ Howard, who moved from Ontario to take up a new job as a golf pro, came along. Howard joined the existing team Grant was on and they went to five Briers. They lost the 2000 final in Saskatoon and came third at the Calgary Brier two years later. Heading into this Brier, Grant had a won-loss record of 53-44, 39-25 with Howard skipping and 14-19 when he wasn't.

"It was a lot of fun (curling with Howard), we're still good buddies. We train and go do curling camps together," said Grant. "He was so competitive, and it just rubs off on you. You learn how to win, you learn what it takes to win. When we play one-on-one (games) together he gets up and sweeps his own rock. He's beat red by the time he finishes."

"He yells 'hurry hard!' to himself when he's sweeping one-on-one. That's how competitive he is, and it just rubs off on you and you learn a lot."

Hearing Howard stories like that never get old, either.

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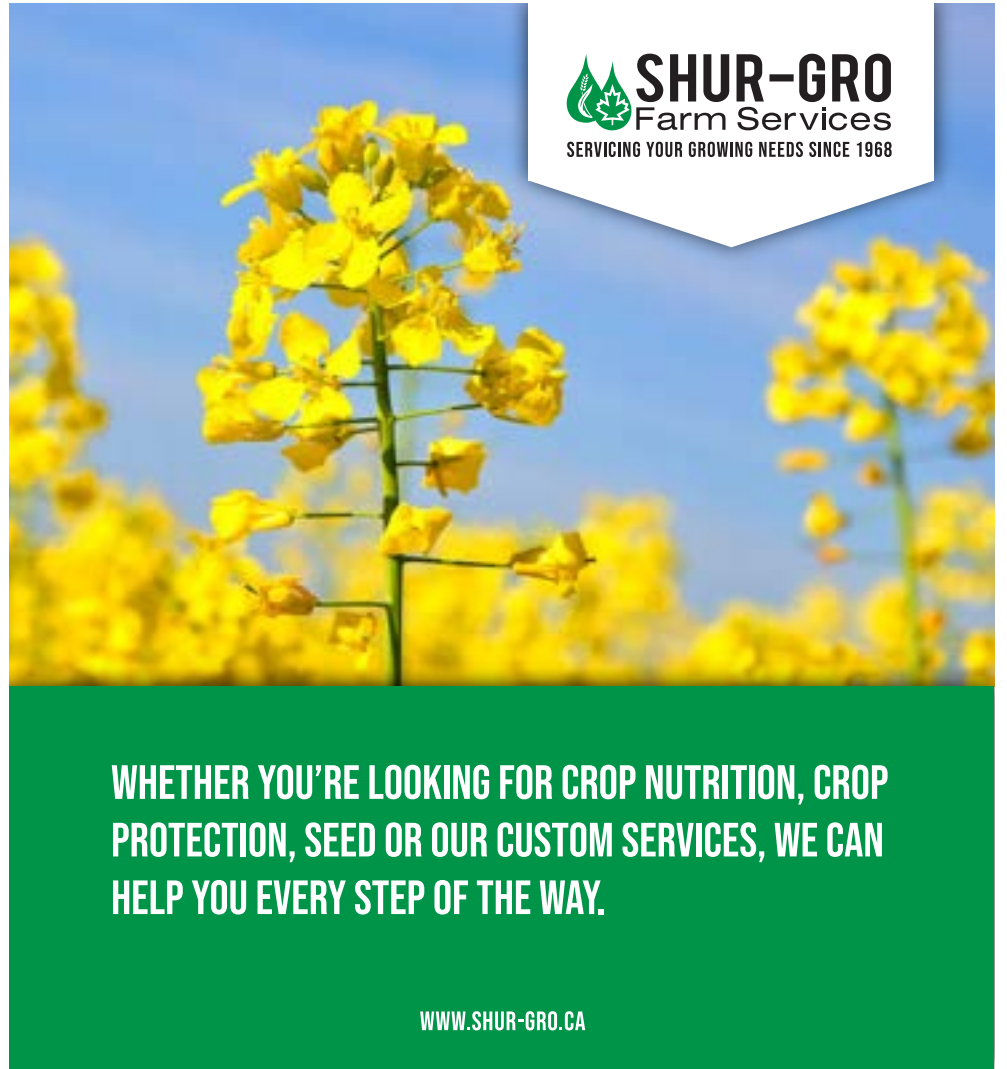


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Tim Hortons Brier

BRANDON 2019



Skip Jim Cotter of B.C. (above) had no answer for Alberta's Kevin Koe (right) who remained unbeaten on Tuesday.



Koe just good enough

By JOHN KOROBANIK
Tankard Times Writer

POOL B

Albertans stay unbeaten with win No. 5

It was not vintage Kevin Koe on Tuesday, but the three-time Tim Hortons Brier champion was good enough in the late ends to ensure he and Team Alberta will advance into the Championship Pool when it begins on Thursday.

Koe, third B.J. Neufeld, second Colton Flasch and lead Ben Hebert, trailed 3-2 early but scored two in the fifth, three in the seventh and two in the ninth to beat Jim Cotter and Team British Columbia 9-5 to remain the only unbeaten team in Pool B at 5-0.

"We're still not quite firing on all cylinders, probably a good thing we're winning with still not our best game," said Koe, who won the Brier in 2010, '14 and '16. "Today we threw some (shots) good enough to make and we screwed up the line call or maybe the odd sweep. So still room for improvement, but obviously I'm

not complaining."

The two-time world champion also knows his team has to play better when they get into the Championship Pool and begin playing against the top teams in Pool A. The top four teams in each of the eight-team pools advance into the Championship Pool. They carry forward their won-loss records.

"It's going to get tough, playing winners from the other pool, so we just have to get there with our best record,"

said Koe. "If we can get there at 7-0 that sets us up great."

First, however, they have two remaining games today Nunavut and Nova Scotia.

"It's not like, 'Hey we're in the championship round and we can cruise for a day and then pick it up again.' You want to get there with no losses and that sets you up for, first to get into the playoffs, and then seeding."

Two-time defending champion Brad Gushue and Team Canada, seeking a record-tying third straight title, struggled Tuesday and needed a last-rock tap-back in the tenth end to score two and sneak by Terry Odishaw and Team New Brunswick 8-7.

"That wasn't our best game," admitted Gushue. "I played poorly and made, in hindsight, some poor decisions in strategy and didn't quite have the patience I normally do. I have to be better, but obviously that last shot makes up for a lot of it."

The team shot a combined 90 per

cent but the veteran skip said part of the problem for their struggles against a team that won't be advancing was his own lack of patience.

"There's no excuses, I know better than that," he said. "Fortunately a win's a win ... we want to get through the pool side with as many wins as possible ... I know I'll be a whole lot better tomorrow."

Scott McDonald of Ontario stole three singles for a critical 5-4 win over Stuart Thompson of Nova Scotia to keep alive his hope of advancing into the Championship Pool. It was the third straight win for Ontario after two opening losses, and a costly loss for the Bluesosers who probably have to beat either Alberta or Canada today to have a chance of moving on.

"We had chances, especially in the second and third ends, to put two on the board both those ends, and we didn't capitalize," Thompson said. "We're in a tough spot now, especially against the teams we're going up against."



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Wednesday **March 6th**

12:30 pm **British Columbia Northwest Territories**

5:30 pm **Wild Card Saskatchewan Prince Edward Island**



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12:30 pm **Ontario New Brunswick Nova Scotia**

5:30 pm **Manitoba Newfoundland & Labrador**



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HISTORY



NOVA SCOTIA AT THE BRIER

Last five years:

2018: Jamie Murphy (5-6)

2017: Jamie Murphy (4-7)

2016: Jamie Murphy (did not qualify)

2015: Glen MacLeod (did not qualify)

2014: Jamie Murphy (0-11)

Last championship — Mark Dacey, 2004

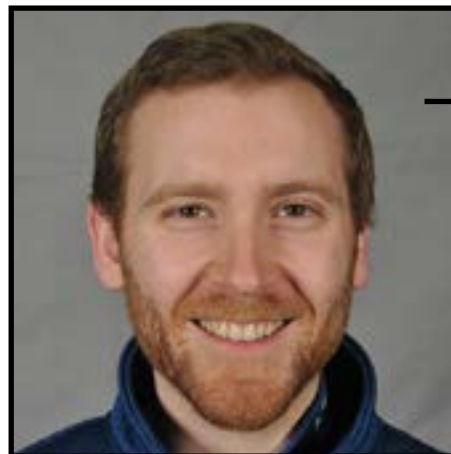
Canadian titles — 3

World titles — 0

Did you know?



Lobster may be a sought after delicacy now, but many Nova Scotians can still recall it being considered a poor people food. If you were a poor kid, you'd go to school with a



Stuart Thompson

POSITION: Skip
AGE: 26 (September 26, 1992, Halifax)
FAMILY: Single
OCCUPATION: Mechanical technologist (Geospectrum Technologies Inc.)
LIVES: Halifax
YEARS CURLED: 18



Colten Steele

POSITION: Vice-skip
AGE: 26 (March 31, 1992, Halifax)
FAMILY: Girlfriend Amy Su
OCCUPATION: Senior credit solutions analyst (Scotiabank)
LIVES: Halifax
YEARS CURLED: 17



Travis Colter

POSITION: Second
AGE: 27 (October 15, 1991, Halifax)
FAMILY: Wife Julia
OCCUPATION: Project quotation specialist (Graybar Canada)
LIVES: Dartmouth
YEARS CURLED: 12



Taylor Ardiel

POSITION: Lead
AGE: 25 (September 23, 1993, High River, Alta.)
FAMILY: Girlfriend Mandy Gerhardt
OCCUPATION: Assistant ice technician (Dartmouth Curling Club)
LIVES: Timberlea, N.S.
YEARS CURLED: 13

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GRANT
GRANGER

It takes a little getting used for curling aficionados to see B.J. Neufeld in blue. Or without his brother Denni on the ice beside him. Get used to it, because he has.

With the breakup of the Winnipeg foursome skipped by Mike McEwen — with Neufeld at third, Matt Wozniak at second and Denni at lead — after a decade of chasing an Olympic dream, Neufeld heeded the old adage, ‘Go West, young man’ and joined two-time world champion, three-time Canadian champion and Olympian Kevin Koe’s Alberta team this season. Now he’s in his home province, but representing Alberta at the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI.

“The hardest part is probably not playing with my brother, I would say,” said Neufeld, 33. “We’ve played together for so long, and we have the same goals in the sport. To be separated trying to achieve those goals, that’s a bit tough. We’d have loved to have done everything together but it just didn’t work out that way.”

The McEwen team played great during their tenure together, but a Brier title or berth in the Olympics eluded them. So McEwen joined forces this season with Reid Carruthers, Denni played for Jason Gunnlaugson and Wozniak is here as the alternate for McEwen/Carruthers.

“It was definitely a mutual decision,” said Neufeld. “We were all feeling the same way, we needed something fresh, something to get really excited about. Every team has its shelf life, and we probably expanded ours and we probably expanded ours longer than most teams are able to. We had a lot of success, we were a consistent team, but I think we all wanted to go our separate ways and try something different.”

So far, it’s worked, considering the Koe team came into the Brier as the top-ranked team in Canada.

“It’s a little bit different, but I’m lovin’ it being here at the Brier,” said Neufeld. “Doesn’t matter what province you’re rep-

Alberta skip Kevin Koe (left) and his new third B.J. Neufeld.



At home in the Rockies

Neufeld finds new team, renewed hope for Brier title in Calgary

resenting, you’re going after that Tankard. That’s the goal for the week, and I’m happy to be here representing Alberta for the week.”

Although it’s been a lot different routine for Neufeld — living in Winnipeg and hooking up with Koe, lead Ben Hebert and second Colton Flasch — he’s adjusted. He keeps his skills up by practising at the Granite Club, occasionally with his brother or Wozniak.

“Some of the aspects that I thought might be a bit of a downfall, being by myself in Winnipeg a lot and training a lot by myself, I thought might be a bit tough, but it’s been really good. It’s been a pleasant surprise. I’ve felt good all year. I’m playing

good. And I’m excited for this week,” said Neufeld.

“I got pretty comfortable on the team pretty early. I had played with Kevin and Ben in a skins game a bunch of years back at CasinoRama, so I’d played with them at least once. And we see each other all the time on the tour, we get together and socialize and have a beer here and there, so it was pretty easy. They made me feel welcome and so it was a pretty easy transition.”

After missing the podium at the 2018 Olympics Koe’s third Marc Kennedy decided he’d had enough of the tour’s trial and tribulations while second Brent Laing moved back to Ontario to join John Epping.

“B.J.’s name was obviously one that

jumped to mind right away, so we’re fortunate to have him and he’s been a good fit,” said Koe. “We’re both quiet guys, but we’ve found a system to [make it work].”

“It’s probably gone better than we could have ever hoped to be at the top of the points, the money [on the curling tour], at the Brier again. We’ve been super consistent. We’ve been in the playoffs at every event we’ve been in. We would’ve liked to have won a few more finals, and that’s good. We put this team together with some long-term goals. It’s obviously a great start, but this will be a big test for us.”

If they pass, Neufeld will then get to look good in red ... with a Maple Leaf on his back.



BRIER SCOREBOARD

STANDINGS

LINESCORES

POOL A

	W	L
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	6	0
Wild Card (Bottcher)	5	1
Sask. (Muyres)	4	2
Manitoba (McEwen)	3	3
Yukon (Solberg)	3	3
Quebec (Crête)	2	4
PEI (Likely)	1	5
NL (Symonds)	0	6

POOL B

	W	L
Alberta (K. Koe)	5	0
Canada (Gushue)	4	1
B.C. (Cotter)	3	2
N. Scotia (Thompson)	3	2
Ontario (McDonald)	2	2
NWT (J. Koe)	1	4
N.B. (Odishaw)	1	4
Nunavut (St. Louis)	0	5

Draw 9

9 a.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Manitoba (McEwen)	*1	0	2	3	0	3	0	4	x	x	— 13
NL (Symonds)	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	x	x	— 4
Quebec (Crête)	*3	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	x	— 8
PEI (Likely)	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	x	— 5
Sask. (Muyres)	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	x	— 5
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	*2	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	x	— 7
Yukon (Solberg)	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	x	x	— 3
Wild Card (Bottcher)	*1	1	0	6	0	0	0	2	x	x	— 10

Draw 10

2 p.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Alberta (K. Koe)	*1	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	2	x	— 9
BC (Cotter)	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	x	— 5
Ontario (McDonald)	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	— 5
Nova Scotia (Thompson)	*1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	— 4
NWT (J. Koe)	*2	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	x	— 9
Nunavut (St. Louis)	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	x	— 4
Canada (Gushue)	*1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	— 8
N. Brunswick (Odishaw)	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	— 7

Draw 11

7 p.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	
Quebec (Crête)	*0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	x	— 4	
Wild Card (Bottcher)	1	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	2	x	— 10	
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	*2	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	2	x	— 9	
Manitoba (McEwen)	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	x	— 5	
PEI (Likely)	*0	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	— 7
Yukon (Solberg)	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	— 8
Sask. (Muyres)	*0	4	0	1	0	3	1	0	x	x	— 9	
NL (Symonds)	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	x	x	— 5	

* — Last rock

SCHEDULE

TODAY

9 a.m. Draw

A — ON vs. NB; B — NU vs. AB; C — NS vs. CA; D — NT vs. BC

2 p.m. Draw

A — NO vs. YT; B — SK vs. WC; C — QC vs. NL; D — PE vs. MB

7 p.m. Draw

A — NU vs. CA; B — NT vs. NB; C — ON vs. BC; D — NS vs. AB

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Brier Memories

Rick Lang
Northern
Ontario

Everybody thinks it would be Al's (Hackner) great double for two in the 10th 1985 against Pat Ryan, and while that was great, I think it was winning in 1982 in Brandon after having lost two Brier finals previously. I remember we all had to get to the rink an hour before we normally would for the final because the CBC wanted to do some taping, and we were the first ones there, 2 ½ hours before the game. When we got to the entrance, a young security guard wouldn't let Al in because he didn't have his credentials. So we left him outside. Honestly. When (CBC's) Don Duguid and the late Don Wittman showed up at the rink they said "Where's Al?" We told them he was locked outside. They eventually had to go outside and let him in.



RICK LANG



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Petursson lived by **THE RULES**

By **DAVE KOMOSKY**
Tankard Times Editor

Curlers have always prided themselves on being a little different from athletes in other sports. That mentality was embodied in a concept referred to as ‘the spirit of the game’.

Umpire and officials? Who needs them, curlers would argue. We’ll make our own calls.

They did, for a long time, but they’re not making them any more, at least not on big-stage events like the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, and that’s a good thing, because guys like Dave Petursson are, and the game couldn’t be in better hands.

Petursson has been an on-ice official since 1980, when officials were introduced at the Calgary Brier. He has been diligent in his job, fair to the players, and a constant face at many of the top-flight events in Canada and around the world. He also played a significant role in helping develop the original officiating manual in the early 1980s.

So good has Petursson been in officiating the games, he has been inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame.

Petursson was one of six new inductees named to the Hall, announced Tuesday by Curling Canada. The other

inductees include one curler (Dennis Thiessen), one coach (Jules Owchar), a second umpire (Rae Kells), one builder (Dave Parkes) and one media member (Terry Jones).

Petursson couldn’t be more pleased to get the call, with the honour coming on his retirement year from the game.

“I’m so happy,” he said. “It’s nice to be acknowledged. I started out at the Calgary Brier, and 40 years later I’m finishing at the Brier.”

Petursson was there at the beginning, when umpires were introduced in Calgary.

“It was the first Labatt Brier and first year the Canadian Curling Association was taking more of a leadership and hands-on role running the event,” he said. “Curling was becoming a major sport, a major event. There were many changes happening in curling, and umpiring was one of them, all triggered by the vision of Warren Hansen. It’s helped shape the sport to where it is today.”

That first year was one of defining what role umpiring was going to play in the sport, knowing the rules, observing play and recording violations.

“That was the limit of it the first year,” said Petursson.

There was opposition by the players at first.

“Many were not happy because it represented change. People don’t like change,” he said.

SEE HALL OF FAME, Page 20



DAVE PETURSSON



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HISTORY



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- 2018:** Mike Fournier (3-4)
- 2017:** Jean-Michel Ménard (7-4)
- 2016:** Jean-Michel Ménard (4-7)
- 2015:** Jean-Michel Ménard (6-5)

- 2014:** Jean-Michel Ménard
- Last championship —** Jean-Michel Ménard (2006)
- Canadian titles —** 2
- World titles —** None
- Other prominent male curlers from Quebec —** Guy Hemmings, Pierre Charette, Bob Ussel.

Did you know?



Quebec's forest covers more than 750,000 km², which is the size of Sweden and Norway together. It represents 20 per cent of the Canadian forests and two per cent of the world's forests.



**Martin
Crête**

POSITION: Skip
AGE: 33 (March 12, 1985, Québec City)
FAMILY: Wife Véronique Brassard; children Laurie (9), Étienne (7), Mélina (3)
OCCUPATION: Business intelligence architect (Desjardins)
LIVES: Lévis, Que.
YEARS CURLED: 26



**Philippe
Lemay**

POSITION: Vice-skip
AGE: 41 (March 27, 1977, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Que.)
FAMILY: Partner Katia Brascoup; daughter Malia (8)
OCCUPATION: Owner (Performance Curling Wear and Hi5 Wakesurf Nautical Centre)
LIVES: Grandes-Piles, Que.
YEARS CURLED: 28



**Éric
Sylvain**

POSITION: Second
AGE: 47 (June 16, 1971, Thetford Mines, Que.)
FAMILY: Wife Julie Rainville
OCCUPATION: General manager (St-Michel Golf Club)
LIVES: Lévis, Que.
YEARS CURLED: 35

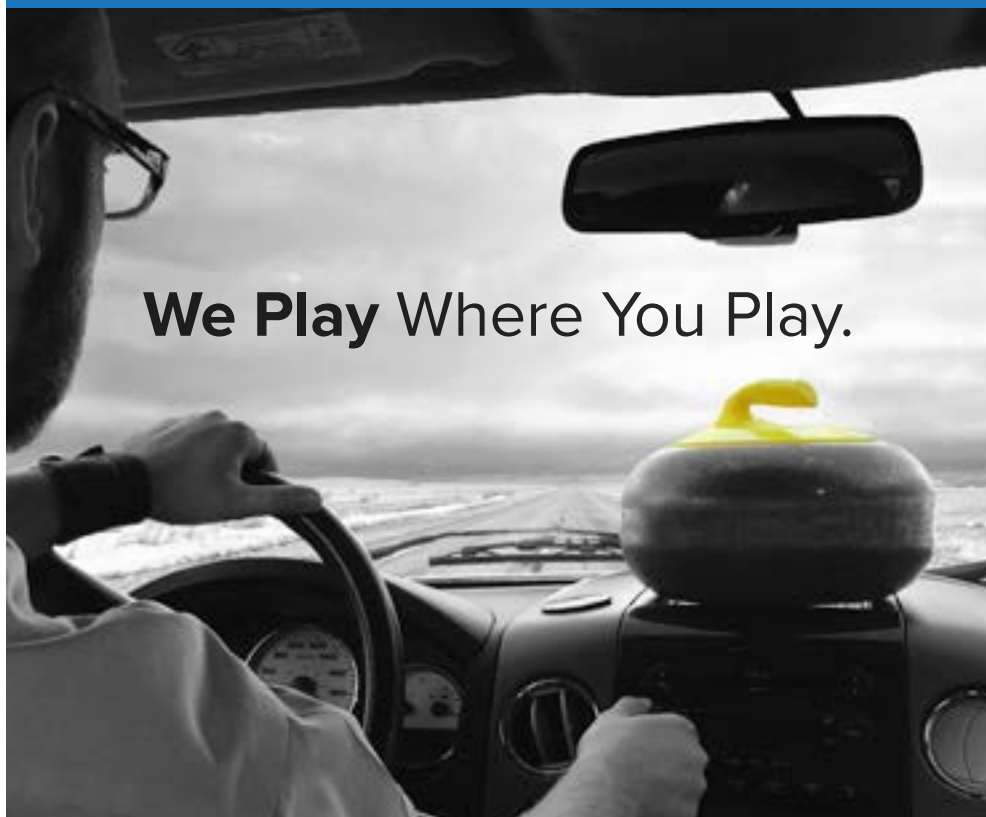


**Philippe
Ménard**

POSITION: Second
AGE: 32 (August 15, 1986, Amos, Que.)
FAMILY: Wife Sasha; son Arnaud (18 months)
OCCUPATION: Administrative coordinator (Martin Ménard Consultant Inc.)
LIVES: Boucherville, Que.
YEARS CURLED: 25

ALTERNATE:
Philippe Bassard
COACH:
Robert Ménard

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The graphic features a stylized background of curling stones and motion lines. The text is bold and colorful, with 'EAMN' in large black letters, 'TASTIC' in red script, and 'Fundraiser' in black script. The date 'SATURDAY MARCH 9' is in large red letters. The event details are in black. The Curling Canada Foundation logo is in the bottom right.

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Hall of Fame

FROM PAGE 17

But the umpires opened some eyes.

“Results of the 1980 Brier recorded thousands of violations. The players saw that,” said Petursson. “Umpiring developed slowly and eventually players started accepting it, knowing that independent eyes were making the call, not them.”

Petursson had a simple philosophy about umpiring.

“We want to see compliance with the rules,” he said, “but we want it to be in a cooperative manner, not confrontational.”

Petursson says he’ll miss the people in the sport.

“Curlers are good people. Volunteers are good people,” he said. “But 40 years are enough. When it’s time to go you’ll know it. And I know it.”

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductees, some of curling’s finest and most dedicated volunteers and supporters will be honoured with prestigious Curling Canada awards. The Ray Kingsmith Award for dedication to curling will go to Terry Vandale; the Curling Canada Award of Achievement will go to Jack Crombie, and the organizers of the Pacific International Cup; the Board of Governors Special Recognition Award will go to Chad McMullan; and the Curling Canada Volunteer of the Year Award will go to Catherine MacCallum.

The other inductees:

Dennis Thiessen (Athlete)

Thiessen, of Sanford, Man., is one of the rare curlers who can lay claim to a triple crown of wheelchair curling.

In addition to being a three-time Canadian champion (as a vice-skip in 2011, and skip of Team Manitoba in 2014 and 2017), Thiessen is also a Paralympic gold-medallist (he was the vice-skip for Canada’s winning team in 2014 at Sochi) and a world champion (vice-skip for Team Canada in 2013, also at Sochi). He added a Paralympic bronze medal in 2018 at Pyeongchang, South Korea, as the second for Team Canada.



Jules Owchar

Jules Owchar (Coach)

Owchar’s coaching career can be defined in a single word: success. At the collegiate level, as the longtime coach at Edmonton’s Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, he has guided school teams to a stunning 34 conference championship gold medals, and two more at the national level.

In men’s play, he coached Kevin Martin’s Edmonton foursome to 12 provincial titles and four Tim Hortons Brier championships, as well as three Olympic appearances, with gold in 2010 and silver in 2002 to go with world championship gold and silver medals.

And of late, he has worked with the Brad Gushue team, winning the past two editions of the Tim Hortons Brier, and world championship gold in 2017 and silver last year.

Additionally, teams he has coached have claimed a mind-

boggling 24 Grand Slam of Curling titles.

Dave Parkes (Builder)

Parkes joined what was then known as the Canadian Curling Association in 1988, first as its general manager and then as its Chief Executive Officer, a position he held until his retirement in 2007.

During that time, his impact on the organization, and the sport was profound; he was part of the process that merged three separate organizations — the CCA, the Canadian Ladies Curling Association and Curl Canada — into the NSO that today is known as Curling Canada.

Also during his time as CEO, the marketing juggernaut known as the Season of Champions was formed and curling became a medal sport in the Olympics, among other achievements.

Rae Kells (Official)

A Calgarian who started officiating at the national level in 1992, Kells would spend nearly three decades as an umpire at national and international events, establishing a reputation for level-headedness and poise under the most trying of circumstances.

She worked at four Olympic Winter Games, and was Chief Umpire at two of them — 2010 in Vancouver, 2018 in Pyeongchang, South Korea — and Deputy Chief in 2014 at Sochi, Russia.

Additionally she officiated at 21 Canadian championships, 17 World championships (11 as Chief Umpire), two Canadian Curling Trials, a European Championship and the first World Olympic Qualifier.

Terry Jones (Media)

Jones has been a fixture on the Edmonton media scene for more than 50 years, and has spent much of that time chronicling that city’s curling heroes and major championships for the Edmonton Sun and Edmonton Journal.

He has covered dozens of Tim Hortons Briers, and also wrote a well-received book about the Randy Ferbey team’s run of success in the early 2000s, entitled *The Ferbey Four: Kings of Canadian Curling*.

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Canada finally wins at World Wheelchair

Team Canada posted its first win on Tuesday evening at the 2019 World Wheelchair Curling Championship in Stirling, Scotland, and it came at the expense of first-place China, who also happen to be the 2018 Paralympic champions.

After struggling through five straight losses to begin the round robin, the Canadians shook it up a bit, moving alternate Ina Forrest to third with skip Mark Ideson, second Jon Thurston and lead Collinda Joseph. The team is rounded out by Marie Wright and coach Wayne Kiel.

"It's nice to get a win," said Ideson. "Hopefully we can get on a roll now. Obviously, it's not the way we wanted to start the tournament, but we've been close in a few games and just on the wrong side of the coin. It's nice to pull one out tonight."

Earlier in the day, Canada got off to a slow start against Switzerland's Raymond Pfyffer and trailed 5-2 after five ends. A deuce in six kept it close, but Pfyffer responded with a deuce of his own, followed by a steal of one to put the game out of reach.

But against the high-powered Chinese team skipped by Haitao Wang, Canada was able to exercise some control over the scoreboard, blanking the fifth to keep last-rock advantage for the last few ends. Leading 4-3 with hammer in the eighth, Ideson held Wang to a single, and finished it off with a single in ten for the team's first win.

Today, Canada (1-5) will face Slovakia's Dusan Pitonak (2-3) and Russia's Andrei Meshcheriakov (3-2).

Meanwhile, it was an up-and-down day of wins and losses for Canadian teams led by University of Alberta's Kristen Streifel and

Karsten Sturm as they battle to stay in touch with the leaders at the 2019 Winter Universiade in Krasnoyarsk, Russia

On Monday night, Streifel and her team of vice-skip Danielle Schmiemann, second Selena Sturm, lead Jesse Iles, alternate Paige Papley and coach Garry Coderre relied on a couple of four-enders to take control over a Swiss team that refused to give up. Leading 8-3 after four ends, Canada then gave up three straight steals before getting back on track with a deuce in nine on the way to a 10-6 win.

On Tuesday morning, Canada faced Great Britain's Sophie Jackson, the Scottish university champion who will also represent Scotland at the upcoming Women's Worlds in Denmark. Canada fell behind 6-2 after giving up a steal of four in the fourth end, but Streifel and crew battled back. A steal of their own in eight closed the gap to 9-7, but Jackson responded with a three-ender and a 12-7 win for Great Britain.

The loss drops Canada into fifth place in the standings, with four games remaining in the round robin.

In men's action, Karsten Sturm, vice-skip Tristan Steinke, second Chris Kennedy, lead Glenn Venance and coach Rob Krepps lost a 6-5 nailbiter to Russia's Aleksandr Bystrov in front of a loud hometown crowd. Canada led 4-3 after stealing a point in the eighth, but Bystrov responded with a three-ender, and Sturm's single in ten wasn't enough to close the gap.

With the loss, the Canadian men are now in fourth place with a 2-2 record, tied with Czech Republic, Norway and Sweden.



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It was actor Ryan Robbins who said: "Don't allow missed opportunities of the past interfere with the opportunities that are right before you." Andrew Symonds and his St. John's, NL., team did just that this year. All four of them felt they missed a chance to earn Newfoundland and Labrador's berth in the Tim Hortons Brier last year and were determined not to let it happen a second time.

Continued opposite page

Wake-up call on The

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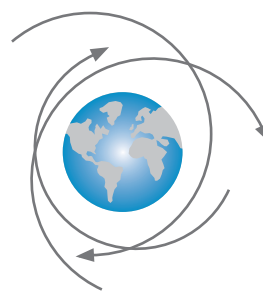


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Symonds seizes the chance to win



«
JOHN KOROBANIK

Symonds, third Chris Ford and second Adam Boland were on different teams chasing the provincial title last year when Brad Gushue wasn't playing because his foursome was Team Canada. Lead Keith Jewer was with Symonds last season.

"We all felt like we missed an opportunity last year, not only us but Chris's old team, Adam's old team, all three of us had pretty good teams last year and neither one of us won, so it was kind of a wake-up call that drastic changes needed to happen," said Symonds, a 44-year-old business development specialist with Verafin. "There was mutual interest there from all out of us to put something together."

After Gushue won his second straight Tim Hortons Brier last year, which meant the N-L title would again be up for grabs, the four chatted and felt perhaps their best chance was to get together on one team.

"We had a great team last year, but the guys I had

last year were my age or maybe a couple of years older, so I thought we maybe needed a bit of youth on our side, certainly from the sweeping perspective and stuff," said Symonds. "And Chris and Adam can throw the big weight pretty accurately and there's not a lot of guys back home who can do that. Those two guys are very strong, younger players. So those two guys, in the positions they are in, make the best combination."

Symonds and Jewer are in their 40s, Ford and Boland in their 20s.

The change worked as the new Symonds team won the N-L title, beating Rick Rowsell 5-0 in the final of a provincial that had 12 teams compete, a huge increase from the two that played in Gushue's last appearance at the provincials.

"Brad's success has done wonders for Newfoundland curling, from grassroots, junior curling right up through and since they won the Olympics in 2006 curling has boomed back home," said Symonds. "However, as they have climbed the ladder and become the elite team they are, from the competitive curling perspective, it's a tough mountain to climb when you have to get through those guys to get to something like this."

So a Gushue-less provincial means more teams get fired up for a shot at the title and the Symonds team wasn't any different.

"This year we did a couple of spiels off-island," explained Symonds. "It's costly to do spiels on what we call the mainland, but we did a couple of spiels, a couple of arena events in Quebec and to

be fair, if Brad was in the mix, would we have laid out that expense to do something like that? I don't know, we would have to think a little harder about that. Anytime you go off the island, whether it's Maritimes, Quebec or Ontario, it's a big deal for the non-pro teams like ourselves.

"Without him in it we really made an effort to turn it up a notch and do some spiels that we hoped would help us in an environment like this."

Also helping them this week may be the situational practice game they had with Team Gushue before heading to Brandon. The two teams played about six ends, setting up different scenarios, like the ninth or 10th end, one up or down, with and without the hammer.

"It's nice to play a team of that calibre and kind of see where we were at," said Symonds. "Granted practice game is not as intense as the real thing but it kind of felt pretty intense."

He went into the practice curious to see if Gushue's strategy in the situations would be much different from what his team would play. Perhaps surprising, he didn't find many differences.

"I don't think there was anything mind-blowing that he called that I wouldn't myself. Obviously when you watch these guys on TV there are some calls ... based on skill sets that some of the non-pro teams would never try, those double and triple runbacks and stuff like that probably are not in our repertoire. But from a straight strategy perspective in those situations we played I thought we did what we were suppose to do, so it was great."



We all feel like we missed an opportunity last year.

— Andrew Symonds

So the team came into Brandon still confident they can reach the goal they set when they got together last spring.

That goal was to reach the Championship Pool here and to be competitive in all their games. Unfortunately neither has been the case.

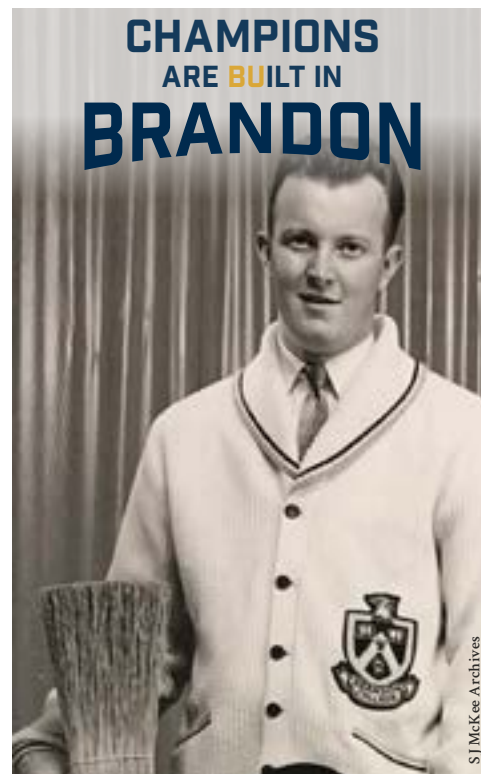
The team lost its first five games, ending any hopes of advancing beyond today's final draw in the round-robin portion, and in games against the elite teams they have played -- Manitoba and Wild Card -- they have suffered lop-sided losses.

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Fans who want to get involved can try their luck for some Early Bird prizes.

Purchase your tickets by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday and you will be entered for a chance to win a full team autographed 2019 Scotties Tournament of Hearts Jennifer Jones jersey, generously donated by Team Jones and Dynasty Apparel. Purchase your tickets by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday and be entered for a chance to win a full team autographed 2019 Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, Brad Gushue jersey, generously donated by Team Gushue and Dynasty Apparel.

Full details on the prizing, including Early Bird draws, can be found at fortheloveofcurling.ca

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