

TOGETHER AGAIN



LEFT TO RIGHT, STEVE LAYCOCK, KIRK MUYRES,
COLTON FLASCH, DALLAN MUYRES

Laycock's old gang's been broken up,
but for one day they're reunited on ice
before becoming Tim Hortons Brier rivals **PAGE 7**

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM
ON PAGE 14

Tim Hortons Brier

BRANDON 2019



Manitoba's Mike McEwen came from behind to win his opener.



Quebec skip Martin Crête hollers for the sweepers.

McEwen gets job done

Local favourite fights the clock, pressure to win Brier opener

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**

Tankard Times Writer

Three-year-old Vienna looked up at her dad, Mike McEwen and when asked if she thought daddy was awesome in his opening game of the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier, presented by AGI, replied "YEAH!"

Daddy wasn't so sure.

"Not the whole game, but there were a few moments of greatness," replied McEwen who made a last-rock draw to score two in the 10th end to lead Team Manitoba to a heart-stopping 7-6 win over Kirk Muyres and Team Saskatchewan in Saturday's opening draw.

"Oh man, running out of time, the heart's racing and throwing a few Hail Marys, nothing better to open the Brier like that," laughed McEwen, who was racing the clock to finish

the game. "Don't get many that look that exciting and that heart-thumping."

It was a stressful, emotional win for McEwen, third Reid Carruthers, second Derek Samagalski and lead Colin Hodgson. McEwen was downcast when his first rock draw in the 10th was heavy, but he had a bounce in his step after Muyres missed with his final stone.

"I thought I had thrown a good draw and didn't anticipate it being quite that quick out there so made a bit of a mistake," he said.

"So I was a little bit upset with myself. I was thinking we would have a tough one for two but fortunately he didn't make his hit and roll, and I just had to calm down to throw that last one, get the heart down as much as I could."

It was a hard-fought game and also a slow-

moving one for Manitoba that left them with about four minutes to play the final two ends.

"I thought we were going to be touch and go to finish the game."

A red-hot Brad Jacobs and his teammates served notice Saturday they are a renewed Team Ontario here determined to regain their role as one of the top curling teams in the world.

Jacobs, the 2013 Tim Hortons Brier champion, third Ryan Fry, second E.J. Harnden and lead Ryan Harnden, had a combined shooting percentage of 93 in beating Brendan Bottcher and Team Wild Card 10-2 in eight ends.

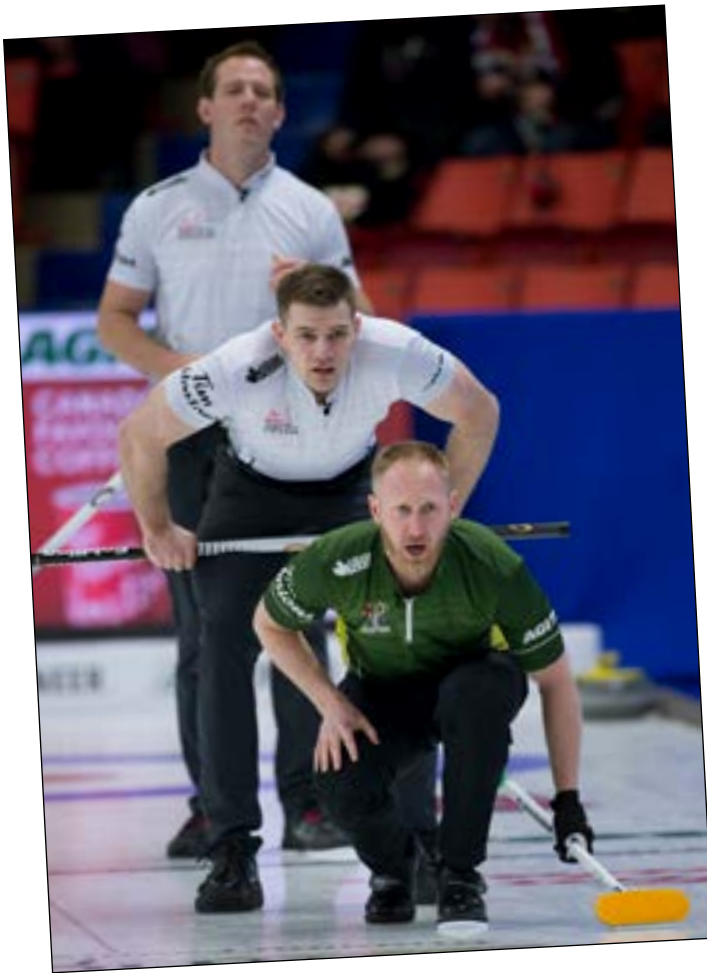
"We got a good handle on the ice early and everything that we wanted to have happen, ended up happening," said a relaxed Jacobs.

"Rocks were getting into the spots we wanted, and everyone was throwing well, so great start the Brier.

"I would say that this was probably one of the calmest Team Jacobs you've seen at any Brier and that can be reflected in the work we've done this year with (coach) Adam (Kingsbury). We're coming in with a great mindset and everybody's in a good head space. The biggest thing for our team was the psychological aspect, the mental aspect of the game. I really think that all of the issues and all the tension, the stress, the problems that our team was having was in between the ears for all four of us."

In Saturday's other Pool A games, Martin Crête and Team Quebec rolled past Jon Solberg and Team Yukon 11-2 and John Lively and Team Prince Edward Island scored two in the 10th to nip Andrew Symonds and Team Newfoundland and Labrador 5-4.

POOL A



All eyes were on the rock delivered by Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs.



Quebec's Éric Sylvain (left) and Philip Lemay work the brushes.

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Ontario skip Scott McDonald puts everything into his shot.



In a battle of brothers, Kevin Koe (above) of Alberta defeated Jamie Koe and his team from the Northwest Territories.

Tim Hortons **BRIER**

BRANDON 2019

Gushue measures up

By **GRANT GRANGER**

Tankard Times Writer

Around and around the measuring stick went. Back and forth the momentum went with it. When the measuring finally stopped the momentum pendulum had swung to Team Canada, skipped by Brad Gushue (St. John's), who rode it to a tense 7-6 victory over

POOL B

Ontario's Scott McDonald (Kingston) in the opening draw of Pool B at the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier presented by AGI Saturday evening.

The measurement came in the seventh end. After the stones had settled on McDonald's final shot Ontario had one for sure. The teams weren't so sure if

he had a second one or not, though. Officials brought out the stick and began measuring. Time after time not one just umpire, but two, couldn't figure out who was closer to the pin, so it was declared a tie meaning McDonald only got one point for a 5-5 tie instead of taking the lead.

"Fortunately for us, it's the same as winning," said Gushue — playing with third Mark Nichols, second Brett Gallant, lead Geoff Walker, alternate Tom Sallows and coach Jules Owchar — of the tied measurement. "I was happy they only got one in the end.

"It was pivotal. I can't emphasize how big that was ... When we got the benefit of that measure I thought we got momentum on our side. We score in eight (6-5 lead), force them in nine (6-6 tie), and then have the hammer coming home tied. I think the percentages of us winning that game probably increased by 20 per cent by that measurement."

McDonald, who was supported by third Jonathan Beuk, second Wesley

Forget, Scott Chadwick, alternate Jeff Grant and coach Sean Turriff, didn't disagree with Gushue's assessment.

"If nothing else it was exciting for the crowd, a little stressful for us. But I think that was a bit of a momentum killer, or at least changed the momentum a little bit," said McDonald. "That might've changed the way both of the teams played the game going forward."

After forcing Gushue to one in the first end, Ontario jumped out front with three in the second forcing Gushue, seeking a third consecutive Brier title, to scrap his way back into the game.

"I thought we came out very sloppy, that would be the best description of the first five ends. But I thought we cleaned it up, made some good shots and fought our way back," said Gushue, who felt he didn't get a good read on the ice to begin with. "I was apologizing a lot early, but I got it figured out."

It was a strong Brier debut for the Ontario squad that has curled well on the

cashspiel circuit in relative anonymity.

"It was an exciting game and a real test for us starting against such a strong team. We knew the atmosphere would be electric in the first game. It was important for us to come out and play well from rock one, and I think we did that," said McDonald.

The other feature game on the draw was a battle of the Koe brothers. In the end it was Alberta, skipped by Kevin Koe, prevailing over the Northwest Territories, skipped by Jamie Koe, 9-4 (Yellowknife). It was tighter than the final score would indicate since Alberta (Calgary) stole two points in each of the game's final two ends.

British Columbia, skipped by Brier veteran Jim Cotter of Vernon who is making his eighth appearance, avoided a mild upset, edging Nova Scotia (Stuart Thompson, Halifax) 8-7.

New Brunswick, skipped by Terry Odishaw (Moncton), took out Nunavut (David St. Louis, Iqaluit) 10-2 in eight ends in the draw's other game.

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By CAM HUTCHINSON

Tankard Times Contributor

Steve Laycock's 2016 Tim Hortons Brier team is back in The Show.

There is a difference though. The four members of the team — Laycock, Kirk Muyres, Colton Flasch and Dallan Muyres — are spread out over three provinces.

Laycock is playing third for Jim Cotter of British Columbia, while Flasch is playing second for Kevin Koe of Alberta. The Muyres brothers will be representing Saskatchewan.

"That is so cool," Kirk Muyres said. "As soon as we won ours and Colton won his, Steve texted us and said, 'Boys, I want to make sure I get a picture of us at the Brier in all our gear.'"

The Laycock team won the provincial championship in Saskatchewan three consecutive times between 2014 and 2016. They finished third at the 2015 Brier in Calgary.

"We had a really good run from 2014 to '16," Muyres said. "We are the only team in history to win three in a row in Saskatchewan with the same lineup. So that's pretty special.

"And for us to do that, and you don't think that much of it when you are playing in it, you realize how special that was and how special a group we had.

"Now it's really cool to go to this Brier, take a picture all together, and reminisce about those good days. As we get older, we will really appreciate those years more."

Muyres is making his fifth appearance at the Brier, but the first as a skip. He said moving up the lineup has been good for him. His brother Dallan, who plays lead, is making his sixth trip to the Brier. Twin brothers Kevin and Dan Marsh play third and second respectively on the Green Team. They are Brier rookies.

"The whole thing is just awesome; it's rejuvenated me; it's made me excited to go play again," Muyres said of skipping. "I knew I needed to get that excitement, those nerves, that pressure going again. I knew as skip I am going to get it all the time. I am enjoying every time I get a chance to throw a shot that

'THAT IS SO COOL'

Laycock's former team spread out all over



The whole thing is just awesome; it's rejuvenated me.

— Kirk Muyres

means something — as a skip that is almost every shot."

The Muyres team has been steadily improving as the season has progressed. The 28-year-old skipper said it would have been easy to throw in the towel early in the season.

"There were some rough patches, but they were behind me and the belief they had in me was what pulled us through. That allowed me to learn a little bit about how to skip to be successful."

Their fortunes turned big time when they won a Grand Slam of Curling tier two event in Thunder Bay.

"I think that was the moment I knew I could skip at that top level and that was the moment the guys really came together and we learned what it took to win.

"I learned at that time that I was the leader and I was the one that had to make the decisions. I was the one who had to lead the group forward. I was so used to being that third man for my whole career and caddying for the skip. Now I am the skip making those decisions and things started to flow nicely."

Muyres was reminded of the fact Saskatchewan hasn't won a Brier since 1980, when the Rick Folk team did the trick.



Saskatchewan skip Kirk Muyres is making his fifth trip to the Tim Hortons Brier.



See **MUYRES**
Page 23



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5:30 pm **Alberta
Nova Scotia
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(DON'T FORGET to bring along something to get a few autographs!)



NOVA SCOTIA

The top teams in the country will be here for the Tim Hortons Brier – including the 2018 champions competing as Team Canada. They'll all be on hand for autographs and photos with their fans in the Patch.



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up close & personal

You might not believe what you hear, but you definitely don't want to miss it! There are plenty of surprises in store when the curlers field questions from fans at the Up Close and Personal interviews.

Only skips and thirds will attend the Up Close & Personal and the sessions will last 40 minutes.

Sunday March 3rd

12:30 pm **Saskatchewan
Prince Edward Island
Yukon**

5:30 pm **Canada
British Columbia**



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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



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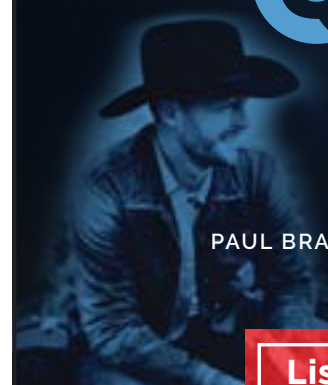
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- 2018: Eddie McKenzie (2-5)
- 2017: Eddie McKenzie (1-2)
- 2016: Adma Casey (2-9)
- 2015: Adam Casey (5-6)
- 2014: Eddie McKenzie (4-7)

Last championship —

None

Canadian titles —

None

World titles —

None

Other prominent male

curlers from Prince Edward Island — Doug Cameron, Bob Dillon.

Did you know?



Prince Edward Island is 220 kilometres long by six to sixty-four kilometres wide. There is no place on the island that is more than 16 kilometres from the sea.



**John
Likely**

POSITION: Skip
AGE: 57 (May 13, 1961, Charlottetown)
FAMILY: Partner Sandra MacKenzie
OCCUPATION: Retired (Restaurant/night club owner)
LIVES: Charlottetown
YEARS CURLED: 45



**Anson
Carmody**

POSITION: Vice-skip
AGE: 29 (November 29, 1989, Summerside, P.E.I.)
FAMILY: Wife Bethany
OCCUPATION: Programmer/analyst (Deltaware)
LIVES: Summerside, P.E.I.
YEARS CURLED: 21



**Steve
Burgess**

POSITION: Second
AGE: 30 (September 6, 1988, Fredericton, N.B.)
FAMILY: Partner Stefanie; son Mason (3)
OCCUPATION: Police officer (Fredericton Police Force)
LIVES: Fredericton
YEARS CURLED: 24



**Robbie
Doherty**

POSITION: Lead
AGE: 30 (August 6, 1988, Charlottetown)
FAMILY: Wife Jill
OCCUPATION: Operations Manager (Grand Slam of Curling)
LIVES: Charlottetown
YEARS CURLED: 15

ALTERNATE:

Matt Nabuurs

COACH:

None



MIKE
McEWEN



BRAD
GUSHUE

5 burning questions



As the Tim Hortons Brier hits the ice in Brandon, the Tankard Times looks at some major storylines



DAVE
KOMOSKY

GUSHUE THREE-PEAT?
Can two-time defending champion Brad Gushue win his third Brier in a row?

That's the talk of this year's Tim Hortons Brier, isn't it? Can Brad Gushue win a third straight Brier title and lift his team from Newfoundland and Labrador into a tie for the most Brier wins won consecutively with the great Randy Ferbey from Edmonton. But it certainly won't come easy. Winning one is hard enough. Gushue

can tell you that. And two? Only a few have done that. But three? Next to impossible. But Gushue will give it a go, although the odds are stacked against him. This Brier has a formidable lineup of world-calibre teams, including Alberta's Kevin Koe, Manitoba's Mike McEwen, Brad Jacobs from Northern Ontario and a crackerjack Wild Card team.

FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE
Can the crowd lift homeboy Mike McEwen to

a Brier title?

Manitoba's Mike McEwen, a Brandon boy, has come home to play in the Brier, and it will be interesting to see what the local crowd can do to lift up the Manitoba team. It worked like magic for Gushue in St. John's, NL, where he finally won his first Brier, so it's understandable that it can work for McEwen, as well.

Home-ice advantage cannot be dismissed at these events. There is something about the adrenaline rush

curlers get from the crowd.

HOME OF THE PATCH
The Brier Patch was first introduced in Brandon. How will it look today?

The Patch, we know, is the heartbeat of the Brier. It's where people come to party hearty and have a good time.

But the Patch was born in Brandon in 1982, and that was many moons ago. The Patch that people come to visit in Brandon won't look anything like it did way back when. It was spartan, to be sure. Today, there's way more to see and do, so it will be interesting to see what this modern day Brier Patch looks like.

The best part, though, is the Patch is right there, in the Keystone Centre. No buses, no long walks. It should be a blast!

SCREAMING MEE MEES
Quebec's Marcel Crete is back at it again.

Marcel Crête, the guy with the loud pipes from Quebec, will be screaming at the top of his lungs again this season at the Brier, but can his vocal chords take it?

We're not sure, but he insists they will be fine despite giving it all for two

draws a day.

Perhaps more important is whether the boys from La Belle Province can keep up with the heavy hitters. This is not a team to be taken lightly.

NEW FACES IN TOWN
How will Ontario's Scott McDonald make out?

New faces are always refreshing to see at the Tim Hortons Brier, and this year the most intriguing is Scott McDoanld's crew from Kingston.

Not too many curling fans outside of Ontario know about this team, but they sure can play. McDonald zipped through the Ontario playdowns unbeaten, and defeated John Epping's team three times to get the job done.

But this is the Brier with its bright lights and it will depend on how the Brier rookies respond to the pressure of the Canadian championship.

They weren't handed much of a break from the schedule. Ontario opened against Team Canada's Brad Gushue, losing a tough one, and has Alberta's Kevin Koe today.

That's a real tough way to get your baptism at the Brier.

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Curling was his passion

Picken part of golden age of broadcasters

By **DAVE KOMOSKY**
Tankard Times Editor

For more than 50 years, some of the biggest moments in curling were often accompanied by the iconic broadcasting voice of Robert (Bob) Picken.

His signature voice was unmistakable. It was so deep and authoritative he made every announcement on air sound as though he was covering something really special. And in his mind he was. Especially when it came to curling.

That booming voice has been silenced. Picken, one of curling's best friends in the media, an administrator, volunteer and a booster of the game at many levels, passed away Jan. 30 at the age of 86 in his hometown of Winnipeg. He was diagnosed

with terminal cancer in September.

Social media was flooded with heartfelt tributes to Picken following the news of his death. Colleagues in the broadcasting world, and many of the game's best players who came in contact with him over the years, also took time to convey their sadness of his passing, while also celebrating one of the most respected members of curling's family.

"He was a great broadcaster and one of those guys you admired," said Winnipeg's Bob Irving, who first met Picken at Winnipeg radio station CJOB in 1973. "He was as friendly and kind as anybody you ever encountered. As a young broadcaster I looked up to him."

Picken was an all-around broadcaster. He was adept at calling many sports in his career, including the Canadian Football League. He was the voice of the Winnipeg

Blue Bombers in the late 1960s and the CBC radio voice of the Grey Cup for 15 consecutive years. He was also known for his work covering baseball, hockey and the Olympic Games.

But curling, Picken constantly reiterated, was always his first love. He had a passion and energy for the game that was truly remarkable.

Maybe that's because Picken was a curler himself, and a pretty good one. He made it as far as a Manitoba provincial men's final one year, losing to Hersh Lerner in 1966 for a berth to the Brier.

But glory was never to be on the ice, and Picken was more than content to cover curling's top players and report on events large and small for the CBC or CJOB.

He covered 32 men's and 16 women's world championships, 15 world juniors,



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MARALEE CARUSO AND GORD LECLERC

31 Briers, 12 Tournament of Hearts and countless lesser events. It wasn't surprising to see him at events where he was only a spectator. That was the depth of his interest in the Roarin' Game.

Picken was also heavily involved in the administrative side of the curling. He was the Canadian Curling Association's delegate to the International Curling Federation from 1973 to 1981, served a term as president of the Manitoba Curling Association, and was the World Curling Federation's first media relations officer from 1992 to 1994. Even after retirement in 2008, he kept his fingers in the sport as chairman for two senior leagues.

"Bob got into things up to his armpits. He didn't just stick his toe in the pool," said Warren Hansen, who worked with Picken for many years in the administrative side of the game. Hansen, who served as director of event operations for Curling Canada until he left the organization in 2015, said Picken was "totally committed to the sport of curling."

Picken was part of the golden age of curling broadcasters, many of them located in Winnipeg, including Cactus Jack Wells, Don Wittman and Don Duguid. It was at a time when curling really mattered to the media, and these men were at the forefront of bringing the stories and scores to the populace.

And nobody broadcast curling results, or conducted interviews, better than Picken. Several generations of curlers became familiar with his booming voice, and knew instantly that 'Pick' was in the building.

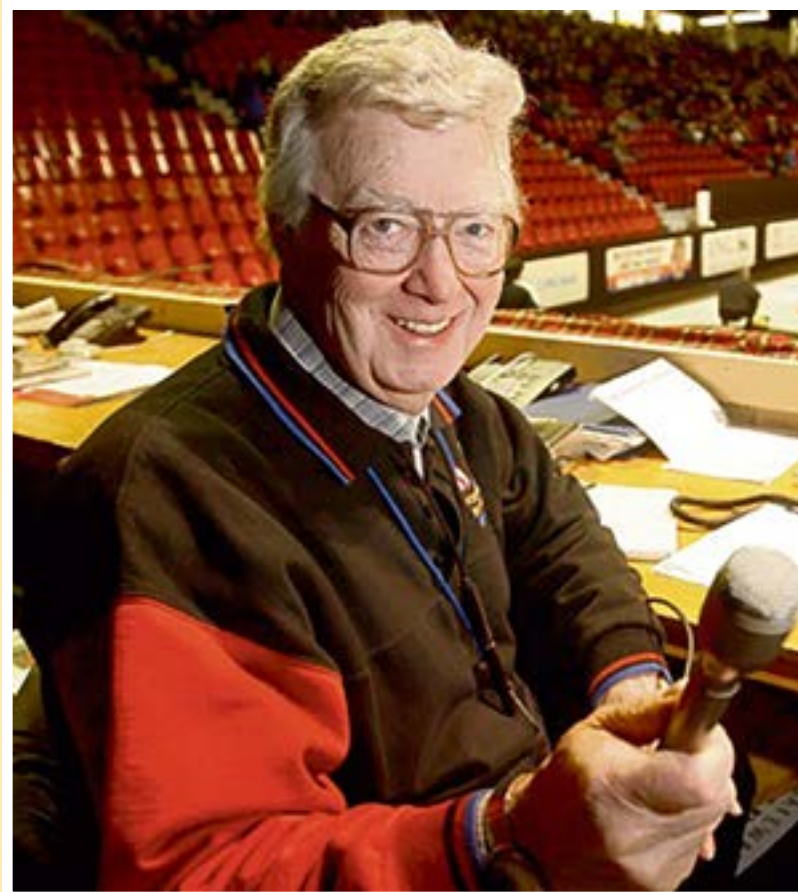
Irving recalled fondly the many times Picken's voice would reverberate through an arena while giving a report.

"You'd be on the press bench and all of a sudden you'd hear this big, booming voice and many of the curlers would turn around to see what was happening. It was very amusing to many of us on the media bench."

Picken's work was celebrated with a host of honours, including the Elmer Freytag Award for service to international curling in 1987. He won the Doug Gilbert Award as Canadian Sportscaster of the Year in 1982 and has earned two Scotty Harper awards for his radio curling commentary.

He is a member of the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame and earned equivalent honours from the CFL, Blue Bombers, Manitoba curling and baseball, and the Manitoba Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association.

But more than anything, 'Pick' was quite simply a nice guy. What you saw was a consummate professional who made friends wherever he went.



Bob Picken's signature voice was unmistakable.

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BRIER SCOREBOARD

STANDINGS

LINESCORES

POOL A

	W	L
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	1	0
Quebec (Crete)	1	0
Manitoba (McEwen)	1	0
PEI (Likely)	1	0
Yukon (Solberg)	0	1
Sask. (Muyres)	0	1
Wild Card (Bottcher)	0	1
NL (Symonds)	0	1

POOL B

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
NL (Symonds)	*0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	— 4
PEI (Likely)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	— 5
Yukon (Solberg)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	x	x	— 2
Quebec (Crete)	*4	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	x	x	— 11
Manitoba (McEwen)	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	— 7
Sask. (Muyres)	*0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	— 6
Wild Card (Bottcher)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	x	x	— 2
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	*0	3	0	0	3	0	1	3	x	x	— 10

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
B.C. (Cotter)	*2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	— 10
B.C. (Geall)	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	— 7
Canada (Gushue)	*1	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1		— 7
Ontario (McDonald)	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0		— 6
Alberta (K. Koe)	*1	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	2	x		— 9
NWT (J. Koe)	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	x		— 4
N. Brunswick (Odishaw)	*0	2	4	2	1	0	1	0	x	x		— 10
Nunavut (St. Louis)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	x	x		— 2

* — Last rock



SCHEDULE

TODAY
 9 a.m. Draw
 A — YT vs. SK; B — NL vs. NO; C — WC vs. PE; D — MB vs. QC
 2 p.m. Draw
 A — CA vs. NT; B — BC vs. NU; C — NB vs. NS; D — AB vs. ON
 7 p.m. Draw
 A — WC vs. MB; B — PE vs. SK; C — NO vs. QC; D — NL vs. YT



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Curling can be hard work. Just look at the effort exerted on the brushes by Team Ontario's Jonathan Beuk and Wesley Forget as they drag the rock down the ice in their game against Team Canada's Brad Gushue on Saturday. Gushue won 7-6.



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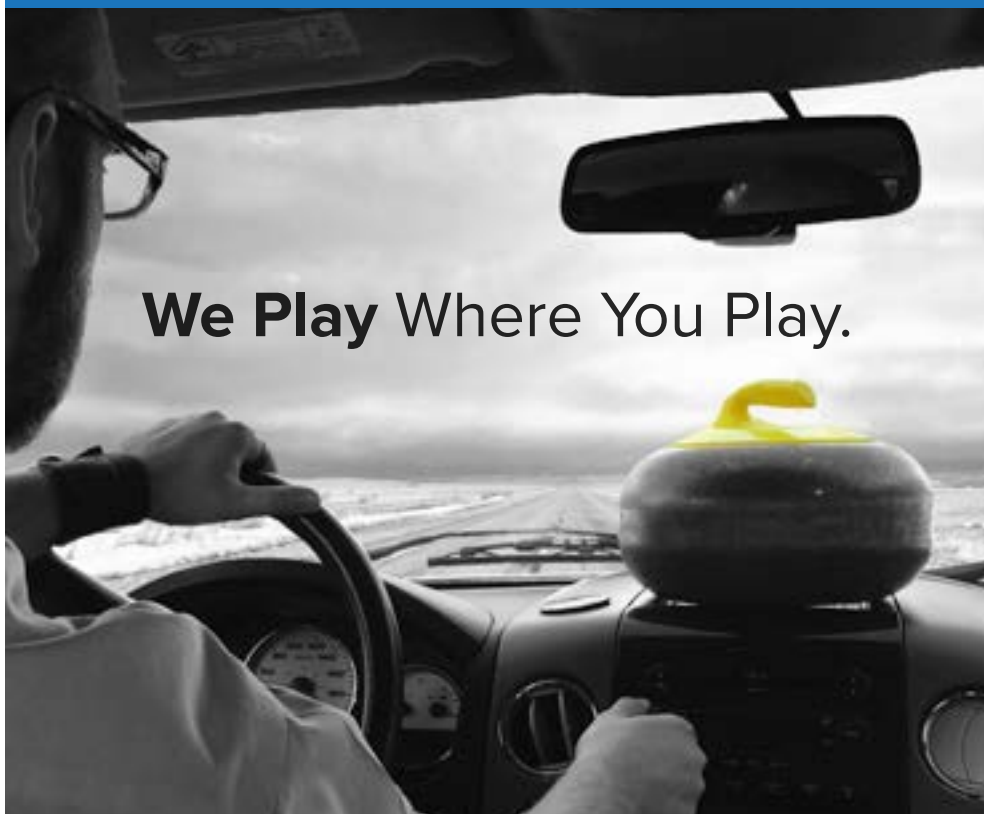


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TEAM PROFILE

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Last five years:
2018: Thomas Scoffin (1-6)
2017: N/A
2016: N/A
2015: N/A
2014: N/A

Last championship — None
Canadian titles — None
World titles — None

Did you know?



The largest weathervane in the world is in Whitehorse. It's a decommissioned DC-3 that sits atop a swivel stand at the airport.



Jon Solberg

POSITION: Skip
AGE: 47 (July 20, 1971, Victoria)
FAMILY: Wife Tanya; son Aaron (9) and daughter Lauren (7)
OCCUPATION: Interim manager (Whitehorse Curling Club)/residential home developer
LIVES: Whitehorse
YEARS CURLED: 35



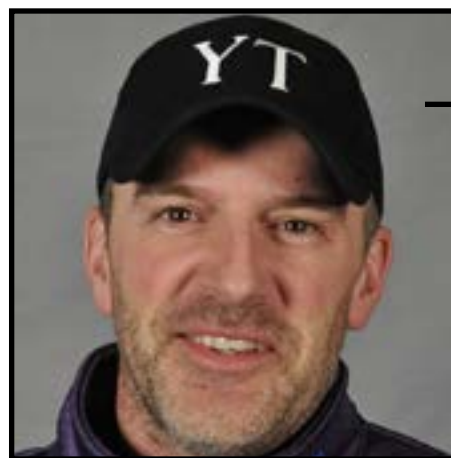
Robert Smallwood

POSITION: Vice-skip
AGE: 45 (January 3, 1974, Calgary)
FAMILY: Wife Jody; son RJ (19), daughters Karen (17) & Alexa (16)
OCCUPATION: Business owner (Bob's Contracting)
LIVES: Atlin, B.C.
YEARS CURLED: 35



Clinton Abel

POSITION: Second
AGE: 45 (May 24, 1973, Fort St. John, B.C.)
FAMILY: Wife Lissa; daughter Brittini (26), sons Adam (22), Nathan (18)
OCCUPATION: Construction superintendent (JDS Energy and Mining)
LIVES: Whitehorse



Scott Odian

POSITION: Lead
AGE: 44 (October 3, 1974, Whitehorse, Yukon)
FAMILY: Children Tristen (21) and Amanda (19)
OCCUPATION: Carpenter
LIVES: Atlin, B.C.
YEARS CURLED: 34

ALTERNATE:
Dave Rach

COACH:
Larry Snow

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Great BRIER CHARACTERS



JOHN MORRIS

Back in the day, which wasn't so long ago, John Morris was a bit of a wingnut. An unlucky wingnut.

Exhibit A: Three days before the 2007 Brier in Hamilton, Johnny Mo was out for a jog when he lost an argument with a car that didn't slow down at a crosswalk. He was bounced off the windshield. Result: Concussion, cuts and bruises.

Exhibit B: Two weeks in advance of the 2008 Brier in Winnipeg, Johnny Mo was involved in a dustup outside a bar in Airdrie, just north of Calgary. Defending a fellow firefighter about to be blindsided by a nogoodnik, Morris tossed one punch. Result: A broken bone in his right pinkie finger.

"You can't live in a bubble," said Morris, who once ripped off his shirt after an Olympic trials loss and hurled it into a rinkside trash bin while a gobsmacked audience looked on. "Sometimes life just happens."

It also just happened that Johnny Mo, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, recovered from his back-to-back calamities to lead all thirds in shooting percentage at both those Briers, winning the whole shebang with Kevin Martin's unbeaten Alberta outfit in '08.



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Prince Edward Island skip John Likely had his game face on Saturday in his Tim Hortons Brier opener against Newfoundland and Labrador's Andrew Symonds. Likely won the game 5-4.



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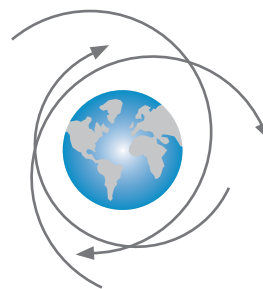


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CHEM TRADE





Brothers Kevin and Daniel Marsh share a laugh Saturday at the Brier.

Muyres

FROM PAGE 7

“That question never gets old, because every time I get that question it means I’m going to the Brier for another year and that’s always good. At the end of the day we are getting to the point where we can win it.

“We’ve played all these teams; we’ve beat all these teams. We know what it takes to be there at the end of the week and perform well at the end of the week.

“We know we have to play really well against them every time there and there are going to be three or four moments throughout the week that we have to take advantage of. Those are game-changing, week changing and they are life-changing


moments and we’re going to have to take advantage of it.

“If we can do that and get ourselves into the playoffs on the weekend, then all bets are off and anything can happen. That’s when the real fun starts. That’s the goal; get in the playoffs and see where it shakes out and go from there.”

He said it is impossible to predict those key moments.

“There are those intangible moments that you recognize throughout the week and when you have one of those, you have to take advantage of it. We talk about that and we really relish in those opportunities and have fun with them too. Those are feelings you don’t get anywhere else in life.”

And what will it take to win the Brier?
 “It’s just finding that little extra gear to beat those really, really top teams and hopefully we can do it (this) week.”



Tankard Times

EDITOR
 Dave Komosky

WRITERS
 Grand Granger
 John Korobanik

PHOTOGRAPHER
 Mike Burns, Jr.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
 Corinne Ball

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Brier Memories

Bob Cole
Newfoundland/
Labrador



BOB COLE

"Most people know me for doing play-by-play on Hockey Night in Canada. But a lot of the curlers know I made it to the Brier twice — in 1971 and 1975. And I was a runner-up twice on last rock in Newfoundland. But my favourite memory is my only claim to fame at the Brier. In 1971, Quebec City in the very first draw against Duke Smail of B.C., my third, Lester Bowering, wrenched his knee in the 11th end. He was gone. So the rule was when something like that happened, the rink had to play with three people the rest of the week. So we had one sweeper. It got to Wednesday and I had made a request to the governing body that they change this really antiquated rule and was turned down. My contention was that we should at least be allowed a sweeper and have the lead throw four rocks. We were playing Don Duguid and I asked him if he'd mind if I took a new broom — we used corn

brooms in those days, and just stand it up in the house. Just stand it there by itself. Then I could at least have my second and lead come down with me when I threw the rock. Duguid said, "What a hell of an idea!" Then he said, 'I have a better idea. I'll hold the broom for you. There's no rule that says I can't hold the broom for you.' That shook them up. They put in a new rule the next day. Now they have a spare person."



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