



EYE OPENER



Issue 7 – Friday, April 3, 2015



Finland skip
Aku Kauste

U.S. skip
John Shuster

Finland, U.S.A. battle for final playoff spot



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After a slow start, Sweden's Niklas Edin has come on strong in the Worlds.

IT'S HAMMER TIME!

Norway looks for advantage over Canada in 1-2 game

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**
Eye Opener Associate Editor

It was almost a given at the beginning of the Ford World Men's Curling Championship that Pat Simmons of Canada and Thomas Ulsrud of Norway would turn out to be the main players. To this point that's exactly how

the nine-day event has played out. The next chapter in the decades-old head-to-head battle between Canada and Norway goes tonight when Ulsrud and Simmons clash in the Page 1-2 playoff game with the winner advancing directly to Sunday's final.

Both teams finished off their round-robin play Thursday with a pair of victories, leaving them

both at 10-1, clearly the class of the field. It is Ulsrud and his team, the defending champions, who would appear to have the advantage going into tonight's rematch of their round-robin game that Norway won 9-3.

That win gave Ulsrud the choice of hammer or rocks and his choice was obvious.

"We're taking the hammer," he

said. "We have two shots to go to the final and both with hammer, so that's good."

Canada, on the other hand, isn't particularly bothered by not having the hammer. They're used to it. When they actually had the hammer for their final game against Finland, it was only the third time this week and the first time since Sunday.

Lead Nolan Thiessen said the team has played all week without the hammer "so we kind of know what to do." To which Simmons added: "Hammer can be great but it may not matter depending on how the first end or two goes."

Team Canada is now 17-2 since Simmons and third John Morris switched position midway through the Brier, and Simmons saw Thursday's tough games, getting last rock wins — 6-5 over Finland in the morning and 7-6 over Italy in the afternoon — as positives going into the playoffs.

"Two situations where it was nice to have (the hammer) to make a decent last rock," said Simmons. "That was good practice for me. A couple of gummy performances and a couple of gummy wins. Feels a lot better than a couple of close calls going into tomorrow."

As for their game plan against Norway, Simmons said nothing much has to change from their round-robin game, other than how he, Morris, second Carter Rycroft and Thiessen played.

"We were just very poor. We didn't make many shots at all and they did. It doesn't matter how you play if you don't make shots you're not going to win."

Niklas Edin of Sweden, the 2013 champion, continued to fine tune his game, posting two wins Thursday to finish at 8-3, alone in second and ready for the Page 3-4 game. It's a position he wasn't sure his team would get to after their early struggles.

"It didn't look good after we were 2-3 but we picked it up," he said. "Now we've got a day and a half of rest and that's exactly what we need. We had to fight all our games and it's been must wins the last five, so it's taken a lot of energy to win every one of those games."

But, he agreed, playing all those pressure games may have him better prepared for the playoffs.

"Yeah, It's been good, but at the same time I wouldn't want to have the playoffs (today). We would have needed more energy. Having those tough games has kept our focus, kept us in every game."

Aku Kauste of Finland scored threes in the second and eighth ends to beat Joel Retornaz of Italy 7-5 to finish at 6-5 and tied with John Shuster of the U.S. and they will meet in a tiebreaker game at 2:20 p.m. today.

The winner will advance to play Sweden in the Page 3-4 game on Saturday.



We have two shots to go to the final and both with the hammer, so that's good.

— Thomas Ulsrud

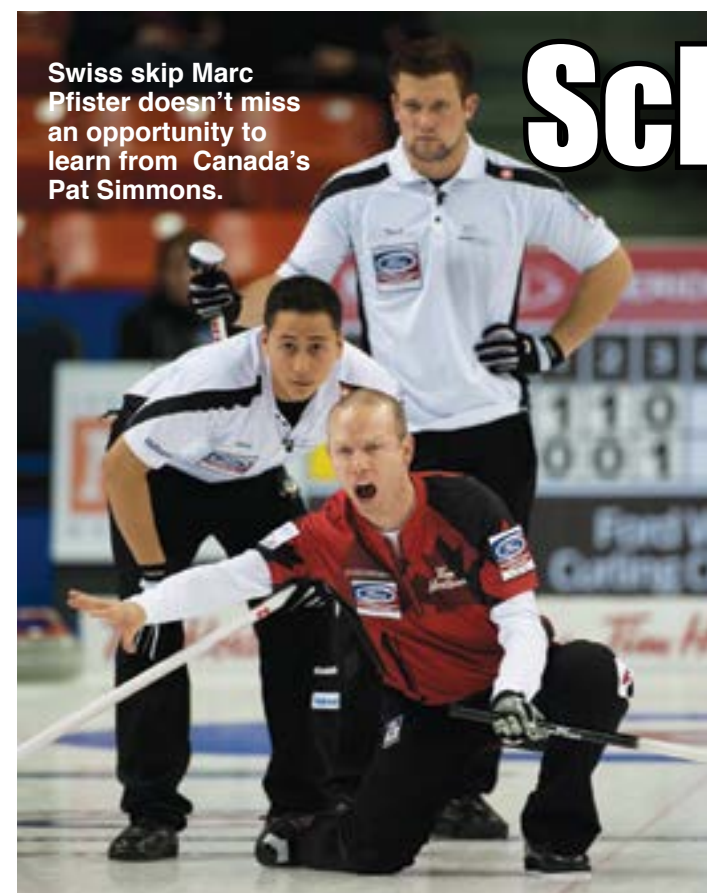
PAGE PLAYOFFS



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Swiss skip Marc Pfister doesn't miss an opportunity to learn from Canada's Pat Simmons.

School of hard rocks

Simmons conducting curling clinic

Canada was up 7-1 on the kids from Switzerland after five, but they begged for more.

"Pat Simmons is playing awesome and we watched these guys at the Brier," explained 25-year-old Swiss skip Marc Pfister.

"We need more experience to play against top players like him," added the newcomer.

So Pfister held in there until the eighth end to give himself another hour standing around Simmons and taking turns throwing last rocks with the Brier MVP, who was running his record to 15-2 since taking over from John Morris.

It would end up as an 8-4 Canadian

win in Wednesday's morning draw at the Ford World Men's Curling Championship. And Pfister did everything but ask for an autograph.



TERRY JONES

The story Simmons is writing this spring is a feel-good tale. And the best part is how it resonates with his peers.

"He's a great player and he's a great guy. That's what most people see in him. He's a great guy who has a lot of friends on tour and no enemies whatsoever," said Sweden's Niklas Edin.

"He always makes the right call. He's a really smart guy. He's definitely been really hard to beat out there.

"He seems more confident now than he

was when he was a skip before. He was always a good skip, and making a lot of shots and having a more experienced team now helps that as well. But he seems really confident out there."

U.S. skip John Shuster thinks Simmons has improved as a shot-caller thanks to his five seasons as a third.

"He's always been a real calm, smart skip and then he went to play third and saw the game from another perspective," said the American, who took him to an extra end opening night.

"I think he probably sees the house differently. I think that's probably what Pat has going on right now. We watched the entire Brier and from the time he took over the helm he's looked like the best player in the world."

Simmons' only loss as a skip in the Brier round-robin was to 2013 champion and Sochi 2014 Olympic gold-medal winner Brad Jacobs — the team he turned around to beat in the final.

It's remarkable that Canada has made it this deep into the

12-nation tournament with so much success when you consider it had only managed to win the pre-game, closest-to-the-pin competition for hammer and last rock advantage three times.

"We haven't been finding our groove in practice," said Canadian second Carter Rycroft. "It's been discombobulated out there. It's a schmozzle that we haven't figured out yet."

It was doubly discombobulated Tuesday evening, as the six-game winning streak Canada opened with here came to an end.

If you analyze what happened in their first loss here, the somewhat shocking 9-3 defeat by Norway that ended Canada's 6-0 undefeated start, it was hard to pin it on Simmons.

John Morris shot 66 per cent in front of him.

And Rycroft was way off his game as well, coming in at 78 per cent.

By the time it was Simmons' turn to throw, he was looking at major messes in front of him.

He said it himself.

"We got in trouble and I wasn't able to make the bail-out shots that were necessary. There were shots missed and it became a cascading of events."

But Norway's Thomas Ulsrud said it really started with Rycroft and one rock.

"Against us he struggled with a couple rocks. Carter, especially, had a bad one. Then you lose the momentum of the end. Carter playing second is like the set-up shot. They were missing a lot because of Carter's first rock. I think that was the key to the game, actually. They didn't really put any big pressure on us.

"But I like the way Pat calls the game. He's calm. He's confident. He's pretty firm on what he wants. He won't let anybody tell him what he wants. When he's skipping, he's really a skip. He's in charge of the house.

"If I'm not wrong, I think we're going to have at least one and maybe two more games against him," said Ulsrud of tonight's 1-2 game and Sunday's final.

"I think it's going to be good."



From the time he took over the helm he's looked like the best player in the world

— U.S. skip John Shuster

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Forgotten amid the hoopla of the Worlds, alternates fill important role on team

By **DAVE KOMOSKY**
Eye Opener Editor

Tom Sallows was knocked out of the Alberta men's curling championships this winter, but with any luck he may turn out to be a world champion anyway.

And by what sort of magic is this possible?

Actually, no magic required. One needs only to have a close relationship with one of the best teams in the world that is in need of a fifth player to take into the heat of battle.

Which is how Sallows has arrived in Halifax, as the alternate on Team Canada. Sallows was picked up by Team Canada's John Morris to play fifth at the Tim Hortons Brier in Calgary. Today, he is closing in on a world title.

"I'm really good friends with John," Sallows says. "I'm pretty sure it was John who suggested me. The guys obviously bought in and I'm thankful. They're such a great group of guys. It's a big team effort here. It's pretty special."

Sallows, 31, who skips his own team out of Grande Prairie, Alta., is not here for a free ride. Fifth players, or alternates, come to work. They can be required to do a myriad of things, from running errands to helping scout the opposition.

"I do a lot of different things," says Sallows, "like helping the coach (Earle Morris) out, studying rocks from other teams, always watching for little things that could give us some sort of advantage."

If someone wants a snack during a game, or there's transportation to be organized, Sallows is the man.



Alternates such as Tom Sallows (centre) are vital members of the team even if they don't get much ice time.

Pleading the FIFTH'S CASE

"There's all kinds of that little stuff," Sallows says, "but these guys are so good, they're pretty low maintenance that way. Mainly, it's just being a good friend and doing the odd job here and there and making sure I'm ready in case somebody goes down."

While their teammates soak up the attention on the ice with shot-making and sweeping, the fifths sit well up on the press bench, usually with the team coach, discussing strategies and scouting the opposition.

However, the fact is these are also very capable curlers. They are in some ways like the bullpen

pitcher, ready and able when the need arises.

And occasionally they get into a game.

Team Canada has made good use of Sallows this week, getting him into several games — albeit late in the game — which is just fine for Sallows.

"I'm getting quite a few ends," he says. "It's nice."

But it's tough to go in cold.

"You're sitting up in your perch up there and they wave you in," he says. "It's a little different coming in. Lucky for me because I've been throwing peels. If I had to throw a draw with my first rock it may have

been the same weight. It's a different feeling, but because I've done it a few times, I feel good about it."

It takes a special person to play fifth. They have to be a team player, even though they may never get on the ice. And except for articles about fifth players, they'll never be asked to speak.

However, they do get all the perks of the regular members, minus the constant hassle from the media.

"It's not a bad deal," says Sallows.

Especially if, at the end of the week, he becomes a world champion.



Canadian skip Pat Simmons (left) and lead Nolan Thiessen present Wilma MacKinnon with an autographed Team Canada jersey.

Hug-to-hug with her heroes

Wilma MacKinnon got to meet her heroes Thursday at the World Men's Curling Championship.

MacKinnon, a huge curling fan from northern Cape Breton, came face-to-face and hug-to-hug with skip Pat Simmonds and the rest of Team Canada in a special meeting at the Scotiabank Centre arranged by Curling Canada.

"It's her dream come true," said Mandy Markie, MacKinnon's daughter-in-law who sets the wheels in motion for the special day.

"She was lying on the couch one night, watching the curling, and she got all excited and said she'd love to get her picture taken with the team," said Markie. "So

good old Internet, and I contacted Team Canada on Facebook, Al Cameron (Curling Canada) and they all made it possible."

MacKinnon, who has been on dialysis for two years, was overwhelmed after it was over.

"Surreal," she gushed. "Meeting the guys and they're all so nice. Hugs and everything. What a treat. It's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Members of the team presented MacKinnon with an autographed Team Canada jersey.

MacKinnon also got to meet TSN's broadcast crew of Vic Rauter, Russ Howard and Cheryl Bernard.

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Then Shameless takes over for the evening performance. Known as one of the East Coast's most popular party groups, Shameless has been voted Halifax's best cover band for the past five years. These rockers, bringing an exciting energy to the stage every time out, boast an extensive set list encompassing a wide range of genres: from rock and roll to country, to some of the classic Maritimes favourites.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday Afternoon The Aviators
Evening Asia & NuGruv



Shameless



The Aviators



The Action's Heating Up!

There's just two more days to qualify for the finals of the Cool Shots competition. Today's winner picks up the daily cash prize and a berth in the Sunday playdowns.

Team Autograph Sessions



If you've missed any autographs during the past week, tomorrow's your chance to round out your collection. All the teams, with the exception of the two semifinalists, will be in the Patch to sign and pose for photos with the fans.

Tomorrow
6 pm All Teams
(excluding semifinalists)



Up Close & Personal Interviews



It was a great time for Canadian fans when the home country favourites were featured at the Thursday Up Close and Personal interview.



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Sweet Tweets!

You've still got time to Tweet selfies of your experiences at the Ford World Men's. Send them to #curlingselfie and you could wind up being one of the lucky prize-winners.

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Junior Stars

Junior Stars Parker Smith and Gillian Blaney pose with Team China at the Thursday afternoon draw.

The Patch Opens Today at Noon
The Patch will be closing Sunday at 4pm



CURLING QUIZ

1. Thomas Ulsrud and his team from Norway are known for their outrageous pants. The Norwegians have a business association with what company to wear the pants?
 a) Ga-Ga Pants
 b) Loudmouth Pants
 c) Kick In The Pants
 d) Pints and Pants
2. The world men's and women's world championships were once held together as one event. What year was the decision made to hold two separate events?
 a) 2005
 b) 2007
 c) 2009
 d) They were never held together
3. Many world championship curlers have made the transition from the ice to the broadcast booth. Which broadcaster has never played in a world curling championship?
 a) Don Duguid
 b) Russ Howard
 c) Vic Rauter
 d) Linda Moore
4. Nothing in sports stirs up as much

excitement as a long winning streak. Canada won an amazing 39 games in a row, by four different teams, before finally losing. Who skipped the Canadian team that ended the streak?
 a) Don Duguid
 b) Al Hacker
 c) Harvey Mazinke
 d) Ian Tetley

ANSWERS
 1. Ulsrud has a business arrangement with Loudmouth Pants, the same company that provides U.S. golfer John Daly with his spectacular outfits.
 2. The two events were split up in 2005, assuring Canada would hold one of them every year.
 3. Vic Rauter in the world curling championship? Don't think so.
 4. Mazinke broke the winning streak, and a most inopportune time. He lost 1973 final, played in Regina, Mazinke's hometown.

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Profile: *Canada*

Pat Simmons

SKIP

Born: Moose Jaw, Sask.
Age: 40
Residence: Calgary/Moose Jaw
Family: Married (Cindy), two kids — Makena (9), Max (7)
Employment — Chiropractor
Years curling — 31
First major success in curling: 1990 high school provincial champ.
Loves curling because: The competition and the competitors.
Curling would be better if: It was mixed skins.
Three words that describe him: Over the hill.
Major influences in curling: Dad, Roger Anholt, Dave Carruthers.
Other life interests: Ball with the kids, travelling, hiking.

John Morris

THIRD

Born: Winnipeg
Age: 36
Residence: Chestermere, Alta.
Family: Single
Nickname: Johnny Mo
Employment: Firefighter
Years curling: 25
First major success in curling: Christmas Family spiel runner-up.
Loves curling because: Of the great people.
Curling would be better if: We played with the five-rock rule.
Three words that describe him: Hmhmhmhm... too tough.
Major curling influence: My dad Earle, Neil Harrison, John Kawaja, Vic Peters.
Other life interests: Outdoors, music, travelling, cooking.

Carter Rycroft

SECOND

Born: Grande Prairie, Alta.
Nickname: Laser
Age: 37
Family: Wife Sheila, kids Jayden (19) Leah (10) Ryker (10 months)
Employment: Owner Prairie West Ventures
Years curling: 27
First major success in curling: 2002 Olympics
Loves curling because: It's still a very social and respectful sport.
Curling would be better if: Curling Canada and players could work together and make things run proper.
Two words that describe him: Blunt, fiery.

Nolan Thiessen

LEAD

Born: Pilot Mound, Man.
Age: 34
Residence: Spruce Grove, Alta.
Family: Married to Christine, children Taylor 17, Tyra 1, Mason 2
Nickname: The Human Highlight Film.
Employment: Chartered accountant.
Years curling: 23
First major success in curling: Paul's Hauling Company bonspiel champions in 2000.
Loves curling because: Camaraderie and winning.
Major curling influence: Jeff Stoughton, Nolan Ryan, Kerry Burtnyk.
Other life interests: Spending time with my family, baseball, travelling, physical fitness.

Glencoe Curling Club
Calgary
Alt: Tom Sallows
Coach: Earle Morris

FACTS

Formal name: Dominion of Canada
Local name: Canada
Local formal name: Dominion of Canada
Location: North America
Status: UN member country
Capital City: Ottawa
Main cities: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Halifax
Population: 35,160,000
Area: 9,997,140 sq. km
Currency: 1 Canadian dollar = 100 cents
Languages: English, French, many others
Religion: Roman Catholic, Protestant

CANADA AT THE WORLDS

Last five years:
 2014: Kevin Koe (8-3)
 2013: Brad Jacobs (7-4 Silver)
 2012: Glenn Howard (10-1 Gold)
 2011: Jeff Stoughton (10-1 Gold)
 2010: Kevin Koe (10-1 Gold)
Last championship — Glenn Howard (2012)
World titles — 34
Other notable male curlers from Canada: Russ Howard, Kevin Martin, Randy Ferbey, Pat Ryan, Rick Folk, Ed Lukowich, Don Duguid, Ron Northcott, Ernie Richardson.

Ursel really goes the distance

Off to Russia to coach national men's program

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**
Eye Opener Associate Editor

At a youthful 50 years of age, former world junior curling champion Bob Ursel found a new passion in the game – coaching. A troublesome knee curtailed his playing days and after about four years out of the game, the Kelowna, B.C., native was itching to get involved again.

So he turned to Russia. He found a position advertised on the World Curling Tour website and, after a brief exchange, Ursel was hired by the Russian Curling Federation in January to coach the country's national men's program through to the end of the current season.

He's been working with the young Russian national team that is here at the Ford World

Men's Curling Championship for slightly more than a month. It's not enough time to make any major changes, but his guidance likely helped the team, skipped by 23-year-old Evgeny Arkhipov, to its second-place finish earlier this month at the World University Games in Spain.

"We sort of tweaked a few things, talked about strategy concepts and that, but really a lot of the learning for them is going to come with playing a lot of games and getting experience with actual competitions," Ursel said.

"Working with the kids, they're hardworking, nice young kids and that's been a treat. They enjoy playing the game."

And there's been no resistance from the other coaches in the Russian system.

"I've had nothing but positive

stuff. For me it's been a bit of a homecoming in a way. I've been out of the game for a few years but I know all these guys, all the coaches ... all these teams here I've played against over the years, so it's been really well received and it's been nice getting back and seeing everyone again."

The biggest difficulty the three-time B.C. men's champion has run into has been the travel.

"No. 1, it's a hell of a long ways from home, so the travel has been a bit hard," he said. "I have a very understanding family back home. My wife has picked up the pieces with me gone. I have a couple of young kids at home, they're 12 and 13. That's been the biggest challenge for me personally."

His contract expires the end of April and Ursel said both sides will sit down and assess future options.



Bob Ursel (left) has been working with the Russians since January.



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STANDINGS

	W	L
Norway (Ulsrud)	10	1
Canada (Simmons)	10	1
Sweden (Edin)	8	3
Finland (Kauste)	6	5
U.S.A. (Shuster)	6	5
Japan (Morozumi)	5	6
Switzerland (Pfister)	5	6
China (Zang)	4	7
Czech Rep. (Snitil)	4	7
Italy (Retornaz)	3	8
Scotland (MacDonald)	3	8
Russia (Arkhipov)	2	9

WORLD SCOREBOARD



LINESCORES

Draw 15

9:30 a.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	XE	Total
Cze. (Snitil)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	x		- 2
USA (Shuster)	*0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	x		- 6
Scotland (MacDonald)	*0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	x	x		- 3
China (Zang)	1	0	1	1	0	4	0	3	x	x		- 10
Norway (Ulsrud)	*2	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	0	1		- 10
Japan (Morozumi)	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0		- 8
Finland (Kauste)	*0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0		- 5
Canada (Simmons)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2		- 6

Draw 16

2:30 p.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	XE	Total
Sweden (Edin)	*1	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0		- 7
China (Zang)	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0		- 6

USA (Shuster)	*1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	- 6
Russia (Arkhipov)	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	- 5
Canada (Simmons)	*2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1		- 7
Italy (Retornaz)	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0		- 6
Sui. (Pfister)	*0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	x		- 4
Norway (Ulsrud)	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	x		- 6
Draw 17												
7:30 p.m.												
Japan (Morozumi)	*1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	x		- 9
Sui. (Pfister)	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	x		- 6
Italy (Retornaz)	*1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	x		- 5
Finland (Kauste)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1	x			- 7
Russia (Arkhipov)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0		- 6
Cze. (Snitil)	*1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	1		- 7
Sweden (Edin)	*4	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	x		- 11
Scotland (MacDonald)	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	x		- 6

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U.S. skip was on pins and needles

U.S. skip John Shuster couldn't bear to watch Thursday evening's final draw. He and his teammates did their job Thursday afternoon, beating Evgeny Arkhipov of Russia 6-5 in an extra end to keep alive their hopes of getting into a tiebreaker situation at the Ford World Men's Curling Championship.

The win left their round-robin record at 6-5 but meant they needed either Marc Pfister of Switzerland or Aku Kauste of Finland to lose in the final draw Thursday night.

Pfister cooperated by losing to Japan's Yusuke Morozumi but Kauste defeated Italy's Joel Retornaz to climb into a tie with the Americans and force a tiebreaker today at 2:30 p.m.

"I don't think I'm going to watch too closely because Italy's that would drive me insane. Let the chips fall where they may," Shuster said before the games.

What he already knew was that, in or out, he was proud of the way his team performed this week.

"Absolutely. Again, Scotland is going to haunt us." Ewan MacDonald made what Shuster called an "unreal shot" to steal in the 10th end for a 6-4 win.

"After we started out 1-3, the coaches sat us down and said, 'look guys, you're close but it needs to tighten up.' And then the four of us sat down as a foursome and really talked about being there for each other and really making more shots for each other."



John Shuster is proud of the way his team has played.

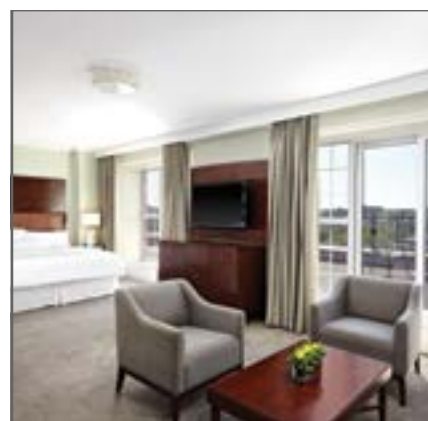


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Profile: Norway

Thomas Ulsrud


SKIP



Born: Oslo
Age: 43
Residence: Oslo
Marital status: Married to Elin Grødal, one child, Jesper (13)
Languages spoken: Norwegian, English
Employment: Manager/curler
Years curling: 34
Years on team: 10
Delivery: Right
Most memorable sporting achievement: Gold medal 2014 world championship; silver medal 2010 Olympic Games
Sports hero/idol: Jesper Parnevik
Other life interests: Golf

Torger Nergård

THIRD



Born: Oslo
Age: 40
Residence: Oslo
Marital status: Cohabitant; children Karine (5), Thale (2)
Languages spoken: Norwegian, English
Employment: Engineer
Years curling: 35
Years on team: Nine
Delivery: Right
Most memorable sporting achievement: Gold medal 2014 world championship
Notable curling relative: Marianne Rørvik, world junior champion
Other life interests: Golf

Christoffer Svae

SECOND



Born: Oslo
Age: 30
Residence: Oslo
Nickname: Bompi
Marital status: In a relationship
Languages spoken: Norwegian, English
Employment: Curling instructor/event manager
Years curling: 22
Years on team: Nine
Delivery: Right
Other life interests: Travelling

Håvard Vad Petersson

LEAD



Born: Oslo
Age: 30
Residence: Arendal
Marital status: Married to Kristin Olstad Petersson; one child, Anna Emilie (2)
Languages spoken: Norwegian, English
Employment: Business owner
Years curling: 18
Years on team: Nine
Delivery: Right
Most memorable sporting achievement: Gold medal 2014 world championship.
Other life interests: Running

NORWAY
Alt for Norge

Snarøen Curling Club
Oslo
Alternate: Markus Snøve
Coach: Pål Trulsen

FACTS

Formal name: Kingdom of Norway
Local name: Norge
Local formal name: Kongeriket Norge
Location: Europe
Status: UN member country
Capital City: Oslo
Main cities: Bergen, Trondheim, Stravanger
Population: 5,084,000
Area: 323,900 sq. km
Currency: 1 Norwegian krone = 100 ore
Languages: Norwegian, small amount of Lapp and Finnish
Religion: Lutheran

NORWAY AT THE WORLDS
Last five years:
2014: Thomas Ulsrud (10-1 Gold)
2013: Thomas Ulsrud (6-5)
2012: Thomas Ulsrud (8-3)
2011: Thomas Ulsrud (7-4)
2010: Torger Nergard (10-1 Silver)
Last championship — Thomas Ulsrud (2014)
World titles — 4
Other notable male curlers from Norway: Pål Trulsen, Eigil Ramsfjell, Kristian Sorum





Peggy's Cove Village



Don't hurry too hard.

While taking in the curling action, get outside between draws to discover hidden gems, delicious food and historic sites along the shores of the great Atlantic. All you have to do is take yourself there.

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take yourself there

Proud partner of the 2015 Ford World Men's Curling Championship.

Remember the last Silver Broom?

In 1985, the last World Men's Curling Championship sponsored by Air Canada was held in Glasgow, Scotland's Kelvin Hall.

It was an ambitious proposal; Kelvin Hall was not an ice arena. Construction of the ice pad and stands had to be quickly done after the circus had vacated the premises. The event was infused with the distinct aroma of elephants.

Participating countries were Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Italy, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

Team Scotland was Billy Howat, Robert Clark, Robert Shaw and Alistair Henry.

Team Sweden's Stefan Hasselborg, Mikael Hasselborg, Hans Nordin and Lars Wernblom met Team Canada's Al Hackner, Rick Lang, Ian Tetley and Pat Perroud

in the final. Canada went on to become the last winners of the Air Canada Silver Broom.

Howat, representing the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and

Lang, a member of the support staff for Team Canada, are both here in Halifax, as is another participant, Keith Wendorf, director of competitions and development for the World Curling Federation.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the final Silver Broom. To celebrate, a small band of volunteers is putting together a reunion party at Greenacres Curling Club on the outskirts of Glasgow.

If you were a volunteer, have any photographs of the event or just want to know more about it, please contact the committee at info@curl-greenacres.com.



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