



Emotion was felt throughout TD Place Thursday evening for the brief return to the ice of Craig Savill. The long-time member of Glenn Howard's team came in to throw two stones for Team Ontario at the Tim Hortons Brier. Savill, a two-time world champion, was recently diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma.



CHAMPS DONE

Team Canada, Ontario eliminated



Jacobs leads four-team 'mix'

Northern Ontario class of field now, but it's on to the playoffs

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**

Tankard Times Associate Editor



I guess those would be the favourites, the four teams that are in the mix.

— Brad Jacobs

This year's Tim Hortons Brier field was touted as perhaps the greatest of all time, yet in the end the play developed much like any other.

The favourites advanced, those on the perimeter tried to advance but couldn't get there, and the rest of the field was, well, just the rest of the field.

Perhaps the only difference was it was a little more difficult for the favourites to get the wins they needed to advance.

"I guess those would be the favourites, the four teams that are in the mix," said Brad Jacobs, skip of the Northern Ontario team that, in the win column at least, steamrolled to a 10-0 record with one draw remaining.

He's joined in the playoffs by Brad Gushue of Newfoundland-Labrador (9-10), Kevin Koe of Alberta (8-3) and Brier rookie Mike McEwen of Manitoba (7-3), who just happens to be one of the best teams in the world the last few years. Gushue and Jacobs will play in Friday night's Page 1-2 playoff game with the winner advancing to Sunday's final and the loser to the semi-final. Koe and McEwen play Saturday in the 3-4 game, the winner moving to the semi-final, the loser to the bronze-medal game.

"Probably that's the big four at the Brier," said Jacobs. "But the thing is, even though you could have probably predicted these four teams, you still have to go out and play really well in order to beat all the teams you need to beat to get into the playoffs. Obviously that has happened so far this week."

Thursday night's play was highlighted by the brief return to the ice of Craig Savill. The long-time member of Glenn Howard's Ontario rink, the two-time Brier and world champion entered the game in the eighth end of the Ontario-Team Canada to a standing ovation. He threw two rocks—a perfect guard and then a draw to the four foot before returning to the bench as Howard's fifth.

"Incredibly emotional," Howard said of the moment. "We talked about having him out here all week and we made an agreement with Team Canada to bring him in as a token fifth for everybody. I got pretty emotional just to watch him come out but he held it together somehow. A lot of the players were teared up. Just to see him come out and looking good and feeling good and to throw the rock with us, just like old times."

"A very special moment and one I will never, ever, ever forget."

McEwen earned his playoff berth with a tough, 8-6 win over Jean-Michel Ménard

and his Quebec team that fought desperately to keep alive their slim playoff hopes. Quebec had the lead until the eighth when Manitoba cracked a huge four-ender and then stole one in nine to ensure the win and end any chance of tiebreakers.

Jacobs plays Gushue this morning in a game that will decide who finishes first and gets choice of rocks for the Page 1-2 game, with the winner of that advancing directly to Sunday's final.

"I will sleep a little easier tonight knowing we have a spot in the 1-2 game," Gushue said after his Thursday afternoon win guaranteed him a spot. "(Friday) now is for rocks and hammer, which is big, but it's not crucial. Feels like we haven't had hammer all week so not crucial but be nice to have that extra bonus."

Gushue is hoping lots of rest will help end his inability to win the Brier. He said he's felt tired at the end of the week at other Briers so this week he's been sure to get plenty of rest.

"I feel good this week because all I've done is slept, ate and curl and I think that's going to pay dividends this weekend," said the veteran skip. "I've probably been a little selfish with my time this week and just went back to the room, laid down and slept. I haven't watched any curling, have not turned on the TV in my room."

Champs take it on the chin



It's the end of the run for Pat Simmons and his Calgary outfit as Team Canada.

Simmons will officially remain as Team Canada until a new Tim Hortons Brier champion is decided on Sunday, but the end came, officially, for the Glencoe Club squad when Manitoba's Mike McEwen defeated Quebec's Jean-Michel Ménard 8-6 on the late draw Thursday night at TD Place.

McEwen's win assured that Team Canada, which rallied from behind to defeat Ontario's Glenn Howard 9-8, would finish outside the top four and be eliminated from the Page Playoffs.

Simmons, third John Morris, second Carter Rycroft and lead Nolan Thiessen started the week well, with three straight wins, but were never able to gain any traction from their

early success. Their wins were against Quebec, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories, three other teams on the outside of the playoffs; not exactly powerhouses.

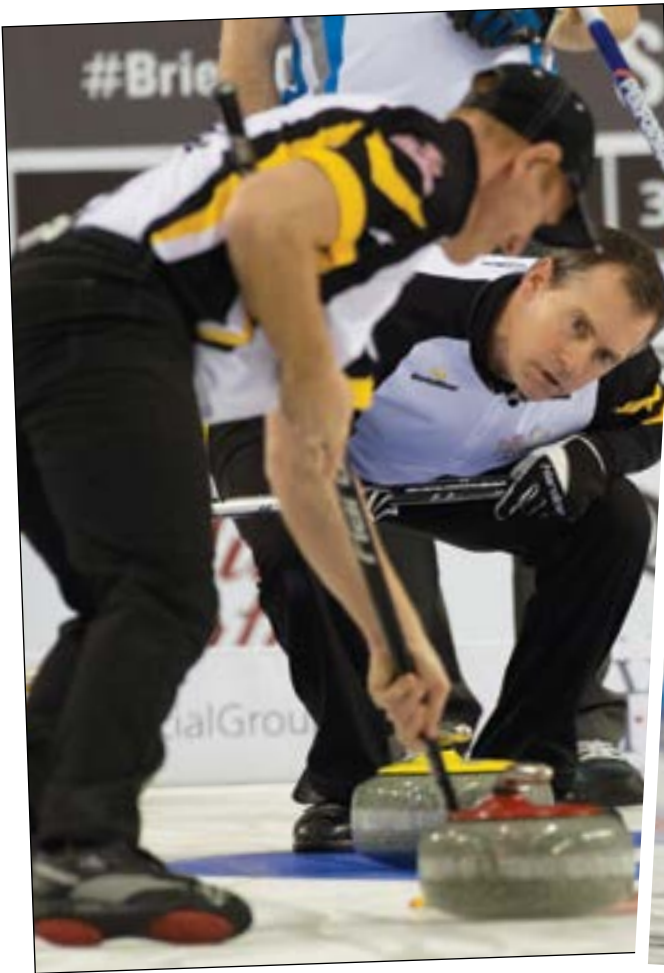
A loss Monday morning to P.E.I. shook their confidence and they never really recovered. They lost to the four playoff teams – Northern Ontario, Manitoba, Newfoundland-Labrador and Alberta

"You look at those top four teams that are going to be in the playoffs and we didn't beat any of them," said Thiessen. "So that's a recipe for going home early."

"We weren't jelled like we were last year ... we were on the same page and it was fluid when Pat took over (as skip). At times this year we've been not quite on the same page."



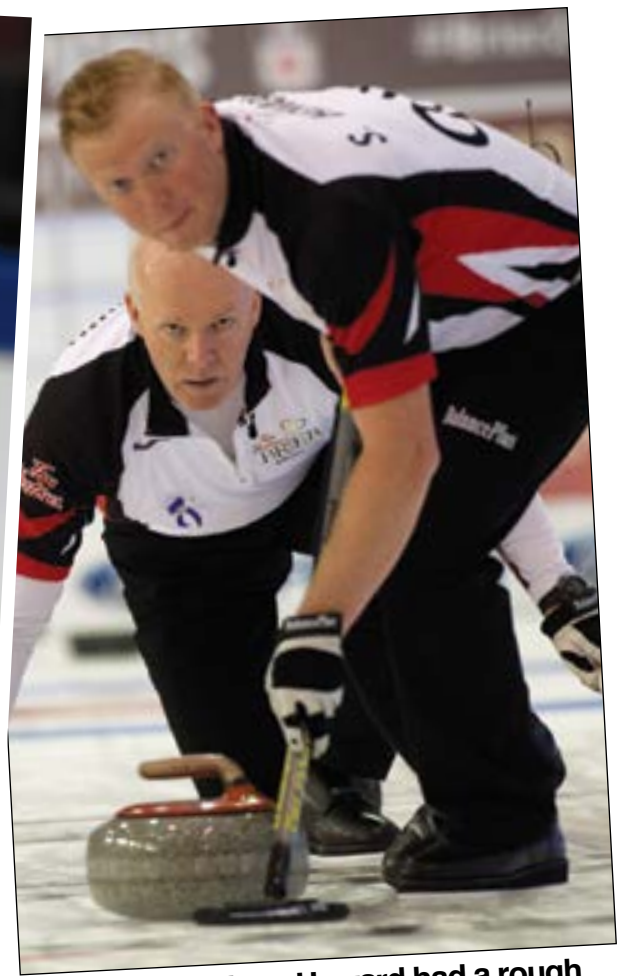
Jean-Michel Ménard and his Quebec team came up empty this year at the Brier.



New Brunswick skip Mike Kennedy cocks his head to have a better look.



One of the better screechers at the Brier is Alberta skip Kevin Koe.



Ontario skip Glenn Howard had a rough ride in the Tim Hortons Brier this year.



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“

Yeah, it looks old and ratty but it has a few modifications to make it useful.

— Mike McEwen on his old corn broom

This is the last

STRAW!

McEwen loves his tattered, beat up old friend

By **DAVE KOMOSKY**

Tankard Times Editor

It may be the most disgusting piece of sports equipment in use today at a major sporting event.

It's a relic of a bygone era in curling: an old, withered, corn broom on its last legs; rolls of multi-coloured tape the only things keeping the frayed strands of straw together.

It no longer performs its

original function, which was to sweep a curling rock down the ice. It was retired from that rigorous duty years ago, when the brush made its appearance on this side of the Atlantic.

But Winnipeg's Mike McEwen loves it and won't part with it.

McEwen, skipping Manitoba's entry in Ottawa at the Tim Hortons Brier, says he found the

broom in a corner of a garage after his junior curling days were done years ago.

"It was used to clear snow off the windshield of a car, I believe," says McEwen. "So I grabbed it."

When new it was called The Boss, made by 8-Ender, a popular brand at that time.

Today, it mostly lies around the end boards at major curling competitions attended by McEwen, not doing much of anything except gettin'g tangled up in the feet of other curlers.

But twice an end it springs into action, feeling alive and useful again, when McEwen grabs it and settles in the hack to throw his stone.

And when he throws it, he leans on his trusty, old companion for support.

"Yeah, it looks old and ratty

but it has a few modifications to make it useful," says McEwen. "It's dear to my heart."

There are plenty of other things McEwen could grab as a support at the Brier. A new broom, perhaps? That makes sense. But, for some reason, he keeps this old piece of nostalgia at the ready.

It's not the only derelict broom to make the scene at a major curling event, of course. McEwen's old Winnipeg rival Jeff Stoughton won two world championships with an old relic of his own. Pat Ryan, here coaching British Columbia's Jim Cotter and a two-time world champion, also used a withered, old straw broom.



See BROOM
Page 9



CURLING QUIZ

1. True or False: John Morris and Ryan Fry are the only curlers in Brier history to represent three different provinces.

2. Aside from being former Brier champions, Wayne Middaugh and Jean-Michel Ménard have this in common:

- a) Both are golf professionals.
- b) Both are married to former provincial women's curling champions.
- c) Both were born in Gatineau, Que.
- d) Both are former police officers.

3. B.C. Second Terrel Griffith says this cartoon character most resembles his personality:

- a) The Roadrunner.
- b) Bugs Bunny.
- c) Donald Duck.
- d) Goofy.

4. Newfoundland and Labrador coach Jules Owchar was the longtime coach for this former Brier champion:

- a) Pat Ryan.
- b) Randy Ferbey.
- c) Kevin Martin.



Gather 'round folks, we're going to test your curling know-how

d) Jeff Stoughton.

5. If you see the Kevin Koe team in the Brier Patch and you say, "Hi, Meat," you are talking to this member of the outfit:

- a) Kevin Koe.
- b) Marc Kennedy.
- c) Brent Laing.
- d) Ben Hebert.

ANSWERS: PAGE 9



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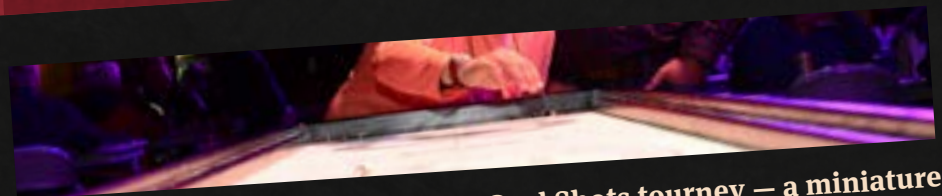
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— Angus McStone

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CurlingCanada
Official tags: #BRIER2016 #AngusMcStone



YOUR STORIES!

They will sing songs of this day! Here's what you've been saying so far at the 2016 Tim Hortons Brier. Psst... want to be featured here? Add your voice to the roar on social media!

    **CurlingCanada** Official tags: **#BRIER2016** **#AngusMcStone**



Sarah Freeman @SarahFreemark

"#Brier donuts for the kids! Thanks @TimHortons!" #CTVOttMornLive @CurlingCanada #Brier2016



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dp_swifty

"#fordcurling @curlingcanada #brier2016 ♡☺♡ so much fun today with my favs."



Matt Skinner @KrankyKanuck

"It's #AngusMcStone" @CurlingCanada #Brier2016



Danielle Inglis @inglisdanielle

"My favourite thing about the #Brier2016 crowd? they clap loudly for both teams as they leave the ice :)"



mkileyt

"The Brier has a mascot. Who knew?" #brier2016 #brierbear



★ CONTEST ALERT! ★

Send us your photos or videos on Twitter & Instagram showing off your 'Brier Spirit' & 'Patch Spirit'! Use the tags #BrierSpirit & #PatchSpirit or private message us your pics on Facebook and you could win a Spirit of Curling Calendar or Colleen Jones' book *Throwing Rocks at Houses*. Plus! You could be featured in tomorrow's edition of The Tankard Times!



Dadof2036BrierChamp

"@CurlingCanada @mcewencurling wins and the boys #dabs. It's how we roll with #BrierSpirit #Brier2016"

FAN DEDICATION!

Here's a big shout out to the dedicated fans living it live at the 2016 Tim Hortons Brier! Thanks for supporting Curling!



Profile: Newfoundland/Labrador

Bally Haly Country Club (St. John's) Coach: Jules Owchar

Brad Gushue

SKIP

Age: 35
Born: St. John's
Residence: St. John's
Marital status: Married, Krista
Children: Hayley 8, Marissa 4
Employment: Business owner / Real estate investor
Single greatest personal achievement: Olympic Gold Medal
Strong likes: My family
Dislikes: White socks, hypocrites
Favourite food: Hamburgers
Favourite drink: Vodka, cranberry and 7-Up
Three words that describe you: Hardworking, stubborn, loyal
Most treasured possession: My TV
Other life interests: Golfing, movies and running
Words to live by: Work hard, play hard



Mark Nichols



Mark Nichols

THIRD

Age: 36
Born: Labrador City, NL
Residence: St. John's,
Marital status: Married to Colette
Children: Beckett, 1
Employment: Personal Trainer
Single greatest personal achievement: 2006 Olympic Gold Medallist
Strong likes: Relaxing with my family, working out, travel
Dislikes: Mustard
Favourite food: Meatloaf
Favourite drink: Protein shake
Three words that describe you: Reserved, determined, disciplined
Most treasured possession: Olympic Gold Medal
Other life interests: Training, watching sports, movies
Words to live by: Wake Up. Kick Ass. Be Kind. Repeat.



Brett Gallant

SECOND

Age: 26
Born: Charlottetown, PE
Residence: St. John's, NL
Marital status: Single
Children: None
Employment: Curler
Single greatest personal achievement: Still to come
Strong likes: Golfing, training, food, Rickard's Red
Favourite food: Pizza
Favourite drink: Cold beer
Three words that describe you: Competitive, stubborn, confident
Most treasured possession: Curling shoes
Other life interests: Travelling
Words to live by: Work hard, play hard.



Geoff Walker

LEAD

Age: 30
Born: Beaverlodge, AB
Residence: St. John's, NL
Marital status: Single
Children: None
Employment: Golf course maintenance
Single greatest personal achievement: Moving across the country away from friends and family
Strong likes: Playing sports, warm weather and Caribbean vacations
Dislikes: Bad drivers, arrogant people and weather in St. John's
Favourite food: Pasta
Favourite drink: Chocolate milk
Three words that describe you: Honest, humble, respectful
Most treasured possession: My house
Other life interests: Sports, outdoors, travelling
Words to live by: Good things happen to good people



FACTS

Population: 514,536
Area: 405,212 sq. km
Joined Confederation: 1949
Motto: "See you first the Kingdom of God"
Capital City: St. John's
Languages Spoken: 97.6 English, 2.4% other
Economy: Mining, fishing, oil production, manufacturing, tourism, service industry.



NEWFOUNDLAND /LABRADO AT THE BRIER

Last five years:
 2014: Brad Gushue (6-5)
 2013: Brad Gushue (8-3)
 2012: Brad Gushue (5-6)
 2011: Brad Gushue (9-2 Bronze)
 2010: Brad Gushue (8-3)
Last championship — 1972 Jack MacDuff
Canadian titles — 1
World titles — None
Other prominent male curlers from Newfoundland and Labrador — Bob Cole.





QUIZ ANSWERS

1. It's false. While true that both John Morris (B.C., Alberta, Ontario) and Ryan Fry (Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador and Northern Ontario) wore three different provincial colours at the Brier, John's dad Earle Morris was the first triple threat, representing Manitoba, Quebec and Ontario.

2. Jean-Michel Ménard is married to five-time Quebec women's champion Annie Lemay, while Wayne Middaugh's bride is Sherry Middaugh, five times an Ontario champ and once in Saskatchewan.

3. What's up, doc? Terrel Griffith says there's a lot of that "wascally wabbit"



Bugs Bunny in him.

4. Jules Owchar coached Kevin Martin during his 10 Alberta provincial championships and four Brier titles.

5. Say hi to "Meat" and chances are Ben Hebert will respond. The Alberta lead's other nickname is Heebz.



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Broom

FROM PAGE 4

Alberta's Carolyn Darbyshire also used a beat-up broom at the 2007 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Lethbridge.

But none of them looked as mangled as the broom McEwen employs to help him with his tuck delivery.

Aesthetically, it's disgusting.

It's hard to know if McEwen keeps the rotting thing around because he's a bit superstitious, or if he gets some perverse joy out of seeing the new depths of degradation the broom could reach by the end of each season.

Or maybe it simply has magical powers.

McEwen laughs when any of that is mentioned.

"No, I just like throwing with it," he says.

Athletes have no shortage of superstitions, quirks and rituals. Could this be one of them?

He laughs even harder when it's mentioned that former Major League Baseball player Richie Ashburn used to

tuck his 'lucky' bat in bed with him at night.

McEwen says his adherence to the broom is simply a comfort thing.

"It feels really good sliding with it, which is why three of us on our team use corn brooms, some uglier than others," he said.

"I can make other things work if I have too, but I'd rather not."

If anything, McEwen says his well-travelled companion is part of a Manitoba tradition.

"There's a bit of tradition with throwing tuck, growing up watching (Kerry) Burtnyk, (Vic) Peters and Stoughton. All those guys used corn brooms so there's a tradition there."

So corn is still alive and well at major curling events, where it used to provide the steady 'slap-slap-slap' musical beat to the game.

It may have been silenced, but it still performs a very important function.

Just ask Mike McEwen.

Profile: Northern Ontario

Community First Curling Centre (Sault Ste. Marie) Coach: Caleb Flaxey

Brad Jacobs

SKIP

Age: 30
Born: Sault Ste. Marie
Residence: Sault Ste. Marie
Marital status: Married to Shawna Jacobs
Children: Daughter Camille Shownalyn 1
Employment: Community First Curling Centre
Single greatest personal achievement: Becoming a dad
Strong likes: Family, friends, the outdoors, pizza
Dislikes: Bad drivers
Favourite food: Pinty's Chicken Wings
Favourite drink: Biosteel #drinkthepink
Three words that describe you: Honest, positive and dedicated
Most treasured possession: Camille and Shawna (and the baby in her belly)
Other life interests: Relaxing by the water on a hot summer day with a nice cold beer
Words to live by: Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion



Ryan Fry

THIRD

Age: 37
Born: Winnipeg
Residence: Toronto
Marital status: Partner Jessica Szabo
Children: My dog Kevin
Employment: Curler
Single greatest personal achievement: 2014 Olympic Gold Medallist
Strong likes: Organization, adhering to my girlfriends every desire, walking my dog, trying to win curling games
Dislikes: Losing at anything and people who don't say "Good Morning" or "Good Night" in elevators
Favourite food: Pizza
Favourite drink: Chocolate milk
Three words that describe you: Organized, overly-attractive and humble
Most treasured possession: My outlook on life
Other life interests: Hiking, eating, cooking and travelling
Words to live by: Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will.



E.J. Harnden

SECOND

Age: 32
Residence: Sault Ste. Marie
Marital status: Married to Rachelle Harnden
Children: Brooklyn, 9 months
Employment: Senior Manager, Channel Development — OLG
Single greatest personal achievement: The day my daughter was born
Strong likes: Laughing, goofing around and trying to enjoy as much of every single day as possible
Dislikes: Negative people
Favourite food: Pizza
Favourite drink: Biosteel high performance drink #DrinkThePink
Three words that describe you: Hardworking, passionate, caring
Other life interests: Watching a movie, reading a book, golfing, camping, boating and overall just spending time with family and friends.



Ryan Harnden

LEAD

Age: 29
Born: Sault Ste. Marie
Residence: Sault Ste. Marie
Marital status: Engaged to Jasmine Gassi
Employment: Algoma Property Appraisals (Owner)
Single greatest personal achievement: 2014 Olympic Gold Medal
Strong likes: Mrs. B's or Auroras pizza in Sault Ste. Marie
Dislikes: People who text me 'prolly' instead of 'probably'. Also people who drive slow side-by-side on the highway so I can't pass.
Favourite food: Pizza
Favourite drink: Biosteel Sports Performance Drink
Most treasured possession: Olympic Gold Medal
Other life interests: Anything to do with fitness and trying to live a healthy life style
Words to live by: Live in the moment



Lee Toner

FIFTH

Age: 43
Born: Grand Falls, NB
Residence: Sudbury, ON
Marital status: Married to Louise Logan
Children: Mia 10, Justine 9 and Noah 5
Employment: Emergency Physician at Health Sciences North in Sudbury
Single greatest personal achievement: Teaching my wife how to curl!
Strong likes: Chocolate, "Just Clean" on last rock, Tour de France, Seattle Seahawks
Dislikes: Night shifts, New England Patriots!
Favourite food: My wife's mushroom pasta
Favourite drink: Anything with milk in it
Most treasured possession: Sadly my iPhone
Other life interests: Running, cycling, golf and reading Harry Potter to my kids
Words to live by: 20 years from now — what would make a better story?



FACTS

Population: 733,000
Area: 802,378 sq. km
Joined Confederation: 1905
Motto: "Loyal it began and loyal she remains"
Capital City: Toronto
Languages: 74% English, 17% French, 9% other
Economy: Mining, forestry, hydroelectricity.



NORTHERN ONTARIO AT THE BRIER

Last five years:
 2015: Brad Jacobs 10-1 (Silver)
 2014: Jeff Currie (2-9)
 2013: Brad Jacobs (8-3 Gold)
 2012: Brad Jacobs (5-6)
 2011: Brad Jacobs (7-4)
Last championship — Brad Jacobs (2013)
 Canadian titles — 5
World titles — 2 (Al Hackner 1982, 1985).
Other prominent male curlers from Northern Ontario — Ian Tetley, Rick Lang.



Brent Laing says it's great to have his wife Jennifer Jones and daughter Isabella in the stands.

GO DADDY!

Having family here important

By JOHN KOROBANIK
Tankard Times Assistant Editor

Each game that Team Canada has played this week at the Tim Hortons Brier there's a group of children in the stands cheering on their dads, singing chants and supporting the team no matter what the scoreboard reads.

They are the daily reminders that curling is just a game, and it is family that matters.

"I can get wrapped up in the curling and overwhelmed by what's going on, the highs and lows," says Team Canada second Carter Rycroft. "One day I'm on cloud nine and another I want to jump off a bridge. They're there to put everything in perspective and tell you that it's just a game, it's just sport and we're out here having fun doing what we love."

The families are here, say the various dads playing this week, to pat you on the back or kick you in the ass and say, hey, it's just curling.

Their presence is especially important, says Alberta second Brent Laing, after a difficult loss.

"The people I want to talk to the most after a tough game are the guys I went through it with... but after that it's great to go back and have your family there. You know they love you either way."

For Saskatchewan skip Steve Laycock, the big thing is to see the smile of his three-year-old daughter who is happy to have daddy to play with.

"The big thing, especially having a child now, is to go after a tough loss and see the three-year-old who doesn't care that you lost. She's excited to tell you about what game she was playing on the iPad. It gives you some perspective."

It's the constant reminder that at the end of

the day family is still going to care, regardless of the team record. And that hug is no different if it comes after a win or a loss,

"To me it doesn't much matter," says Laycock. "If we win or lose it's still a special moment, that's the real nice part of having her here."

It's not often easy for the players to spend a lot of time with family because of Curling Canada commitments and timing of the draws.

"We get more interaction with them here (at the rink)," Rycroft says of seeing his wife and three children who are staying at the house of team coach Earle Morris. "We haven't seen them too much other than a couple of dinners and lunches."

"You know how busy they keep us here. You don't get a lot of (free) time."

He and teammates Nolan Thiessen and Pat Simmons are aware their families are in the stands.

"Pat's kids, Nolan's kids and my kids are all sitting together and they're giving us chants," he says. "That stuff goes a long way for us. We may not react, but you hear it and you know what's going on and it always makes you feel good."

Laing says it's nice to see his wife, Olympic woman's champion Jennifer Jones, and three-year-old daughter, Isabella, sitting in the stands.

"Any support you have when you can look up and see a friendly face when things aren't going well, it's awesome. And obviously with Jennifer having gone through a lot of the same things, that's cool. And it's always great to get a hug from Isabella after the game, so that's always a bonus."

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'Fear the beard'

Big hairy deal on Brier ice

By **PATRICK BUTLER**

Tankard Times Writer

Northern Ontario is a team known best for its brawn, but all of a sudden the players are being recognized for their beards.

Sault Ste. Marie-based skip Brad Jacobs and third Ryan Fry have sprouted some significant facial hair since last year's Tim Hortons Brier in Calgary. Their furry faces — made all the more remarkable by both players' bald heads — and their tremendous success so far at the Brier have spawned the media catchphrase "fear the beard" at this year's Canadian men's curling championship.

"I guess it's appropriate — I'm rocking a beard and we're doing well here," said Jacobs, the 2014 Olympic gold medallist. "It's kind of neat, it's something that

people have jumped on and if people are interacting and having fun with it, that's all that matters."

Not everyone loves the beard, though, said the Northern Ontario skip.

"I can take the negative feedback. There's definitely been some," Jacobs laughed, adding he doesn't think anyone could give him more flak than his own teammates. "This is the first time I've had it. I think that's probably another reason why it's come about. No one's ever seen this before and we've been curling for quite a few years now."

Northern Ontario has so far sailed through the Brier with a 9-0 record, beating Manitoba 8-5 Thursday afternoon to remain undefeated, and Jacobs said when



Brad Jacobs (left) and Ryan Fry: Don't know if anybody would want to tangle with these two dudes in a back alley.

his team gets on a roll like this, they keep a regimented pre-game routine — right down to the finest detail.

"As far as superstitions goes, I said to E.J., I think I have about a dozen on the go right now. It's about not changing the routine one bit. Trying to do everything the exact same as we've been doing

for every single game and everything's working out so far," said the 2013 world silver medallist and seven-time Northern Ontario champion.

"We always try to get into (a routine) when coming to these events. We don't even change where we sit in the vehicle until we lose."

LIVE. LOCAL. BREAKING.

A promotional graphic for a news broadcast. It features a portrait of Graham Richardson, a man in a suit and tie, smiling. The background shows a city street at night with blurred lights. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the CTV logo and the text "NEWS OTTAWA" and "WEEKNIGHTS 6".

A promotional graphic for a radio broadcast. It features a portrait of Evan Solomon, a man in a suit, smiling. The background is a light blue with a city skyline and a radio frequency graphic. At the top, it says "580 CFRA NEWS TALK RADIO". At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the text "Ottawa Now with Evan Solomon Weekdays 2-6PM" and social media information: "CFRA.COM | @CFRAOttawa | 580 CFRA".

Directional sweeping? Yes! It really works

Tankard Times

For those of you who have been asking, yes, directional sweeping works — and works very well.

No less an authority than Brad Gushue, skipper of the Newfoundland/Labrador team out of St. John's, says the technique of using one sweeper or the other to scratch the ice can make a rock do things never imagined in the old days.

Asked why the shooting percentages are so high at this week's Tim Hortons Brier, Gushue said "directional sweeping, 100 per cent."

"Guys have such great room for

margin for error. You can throw it a couple of inches outside and if you sweep it properly you can make it. You can throw it a couple of inches inside and if you sweep it properly you can make it."

The new sweeping technique has closed the gap between the top 20 teams in the country, he says, because everybody has the ability to control the shots so much better now.

"The raw talent of being able to hit the broom with the right weight is not as important now. You just have to be real close and be good at calling the sweeping and all of these guys have gotten very good at it.

"Now it comes down to a lucky break or bad break."



Skip Brad Gushue says directional sweeping can control a rock like never before.

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Let's see your bids at auction

By **PATRICK BUTLER**
Tankard Times Writer

The 2016 Tim Hortons Brier's Great Canadian Auction kicked off to a great start Wednesday night in the Patch. Within minutes of the sale opening, fans had already blanketed the tables, bidding on a slew of hot-ticket items.

Rachael Wilson, Curling Canada's Director of Fund Development, said this year's charity auction includes a jersey signed by every single player at the 2016 Brier, a huge gift basket from Team Canada, Olympic curling gear and a sweater signed by actor Will Ferrell when he attended the Roar of the Rings Olympic Trials in Winnipeg in 2013.

Wilson said the auction hopes to raise \$15,000 for Curling Canada's Rocks and Rings program, which turns



Rachael Wilson and the Great Canadian Auction.

school gyms into modified curling surfaces to teach kids the basics of throwing and sweeping stones. Since 2009, the program has introduced almost a million youngsters across the country to the sport.

"We can bring Rocks and Rings to a school for \$175, so you can imagine how many schools \$15,000 could mean," she said. "All of the items have been donated, so 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to the actual cause. That means we'll be helping a ton of schools all across Canada."

Unlike last year's Great Canadian Auction, hosted while the Brier was in Calgary, the 2016 sale is taking place inside the Brier Patch. Wilson said she hopes that means even more people will take part.

"Anyone, not just ticket-holders, can bid so that's going to make a big difference," said Wilson. "We're expecting about 6,000 people to pass through the Patch."

The auction began Wednesday night and closes Saturday after the semifinal draw.

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BRIER SCOREBOARD

STANDINGS

	W	L
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	10	0
NL (Gushue)	9	1
Alberta (K. Koe)	8	3
Manitoba (McEwen)	7	3
Canada (Simmons)	6	5
Saskatchewan (Laycock)	5	6
Quebec (Ménard)	4	6
Ontario (Howard)	4	7
New Brunswick (Kennedy)	3	7
B.C. (Cotter)	2	8
P.E.I. (Casey)	2	8
NWT (J. Koe)	2	8

SCHEDULE

TODAY
 9:30 a.m. Draw
 A — BC vs. NB; B — MB vs PE; C — QC vs. NT; D — NO vs. NL
 PAGE PLAYOFF
 7:30 p.m.
 1 vs. 2
 Northern Ontario vs. Newfoundland/Labrador



LINESCORES

Draw 14												
9:30 a.m.												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
Ontario (Howard)	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0		— 4
Saskatchewan (Laycock)	*0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	1		— 7
Canada (Simmons)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	x		— 3
Alberta (K. Koe)	*2	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	x		— 8
B.C. (Cotter)	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0		— 7
NL (Gushue)	*2	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1		— 8
PEI (Casey)	*2	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	x		— 7
Territories (J. Koe)	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	x		— 4

Draw 15												
2:30 p.m.												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
PEI (Casey)	*2	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	x		— 4
NL (Gushue)	0	2	3	0	2	0	3	0	1	3x		— 11
B.C. (Cotter)	*1	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	0		— 8
Territories (Koe)	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	2		— 9
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	*0	1	1	0	2	0	3	0	1	x		— 8
Manitoba (McEwen)	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	x		— 5
New Brunswick (Kennedy)	*0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	x		— 7
Quebec (Ménard)	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	2	x		— 9

Draw 16											
7:30 p.m.											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Manitoba (McEwen)	*0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	x	— 8
Quebec (Ménard)	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	x	— 5
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	*2	0	3	1	0	2	2	0	x	x	— 10
New Brunswick (Kennedy)	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	x	x	— 5
Canada (Simmons)	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	2	— 9
Ontario (Howard)	*0	2	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	— 8
Saskatchewan (Laycock)	*0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	— 5
Alberta (K. Koe)	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	— 7

* — Last rock

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Editor
 Dave Komosky
Associate Editor
 John Korobanik
Photographer
 Mike Burns Jr.
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