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CURLING
REGINA
2011

PRESENTED BY RICHARDSON



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It's a repeat for the Maple Leaf as Stoughton claims his first world crown in 15 years



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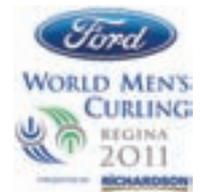
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BRONZE BASH: While second Fredrik Lindberg puts the finishing touches on Niklas Edin's final stone, lead Viktor Kjaell begins celebrating Sweden's 7-6 victory over Norway in Sunday's bronze-medal game. See story, Page 18.

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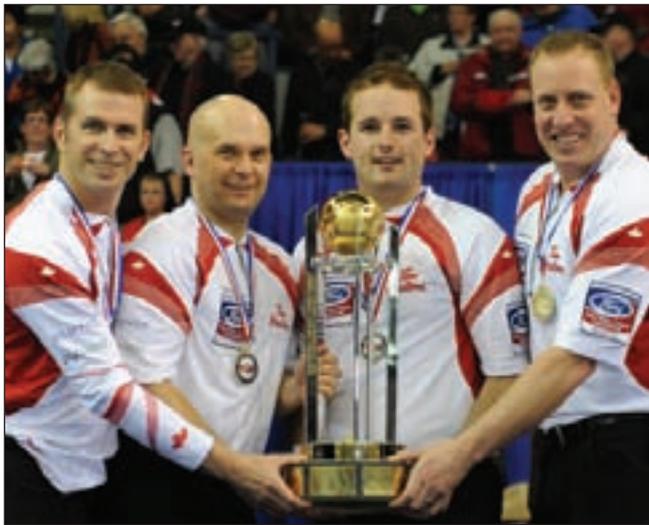
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Stoughton adds second global title to his resume

Larry Wood
Eye Opener Editor

It was a long, tough, grueling ride, but Jeff Stoughton successfully reached the end of the championship trail on Sunday night at the Brandt Centre.

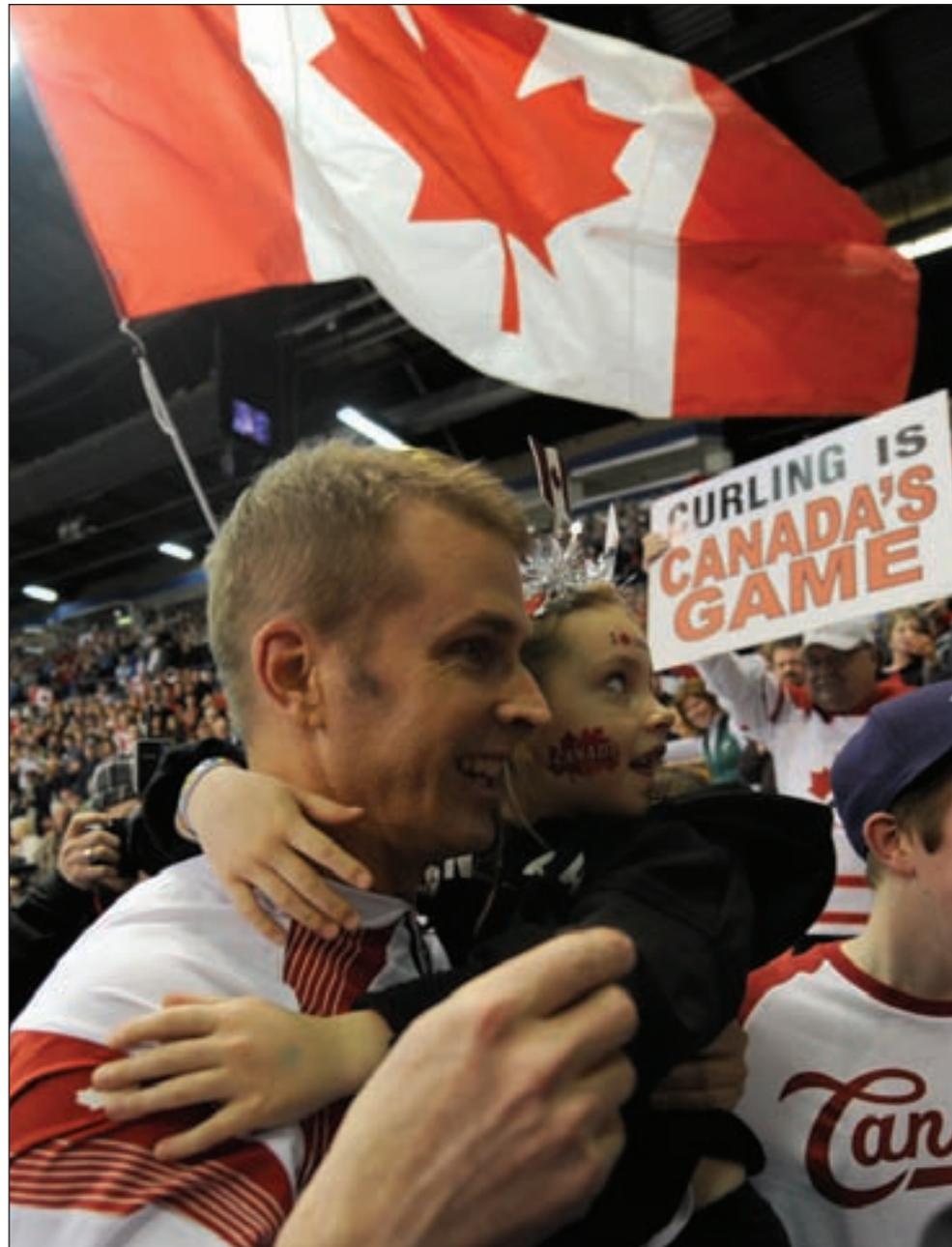
The 47-year-old Stoughton completed his most illustrious curling campaign by adding

his second Ford Worlds title to a glittering list of accomplishments that includes three Brier wins and a record nine Manitoba titles.

"It doesn't get any better," said Stoughton, shortly after recording a 6-5 championship-final victory over Scotland's Tom Brewster in the event finale.

"At my age, with my long career, it's pretty special to be able to do this. We've put in a lot of hard work and dedication to play this game. And this says a lot for our longevity in the game and our perseverance and the sacrifices we've put in."

Stoughton last won the



At left, Jeff Stoughton holds up daughter Elizabeth, 7, following Sunday's gold-medal victory over Scotland. Far left, Stoughton, third Jon Mead, second Reid Carruthers, and lead Steve Gould grab a piece of the FWMCC trophy.

Warwick Smith of Perth in 1996, lost to Hammy McMullan of Stranraer in 1999 and won this year against the veteran from Aberdeen who had assembled a team of youngsters and qualified for his first Worlds since winning the global junior title in 1995, the year before Stoughton won his first world men's crown at Copps Coliseum.

Playing with Brewster were 22-year-old third Greg Drummond, 21-year-old second Scott Andrews and 22-year-old lead Michael Goodfellow.

"That's a great young team," said Stoughton of his foe. "They have great mechanics. I think if they can just tone it down a little bit, relax and let the game play out. We had some more finesse shots than they did, made some more touch draws and some bumpers and hacks. I think that's all that's missing from their game.

"Those guys are young! That's going to be a pretty strong team in the near future."

Sunday's Final Canada 6 Scotland 5

Scotland
Canada*
%age
Scotland
Canada

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	T
Scotland	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	x	5
Canada*	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	x	6
%age	Lead	Second	Third	Skip	Team						
Scotland	84	78	76	89	79						
Canada	86	88	91	93	89						

world title in 1996.

"For a long time it was getting hard to be third or fourth or fifth, trying to get back to this," he said. "You're so close, but so far. It does get frustrating. But this makes up for all of it."

It was a night when Scottish

skip Brewster and Canadian vice-skip Jon Mead were celebrating very special birthdays — No. 37 for Brewster, a native of St. Andrews, and No. 44 for Mead, who was born in Regina.

It was the first world success for Mead, the first for

second Reid Carruthers and the second for lead Steve Gould. Stoughton won his previous title 15 years ago in Hamilton, Ont.

This was his third global final and the third time his team has faced off against a Scottish side. Stoughton defeated

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Brewster's belated world of wonders

The year was 1995.

The place was Perth, Scotland. Home favourite Tommy Brewster, issuing a blazing assortment of bullets and other up-weight run-and-gun shots, was the walk-away 10-and-1 winner of the world junior curling title.

Great things were predicted for this young rock sniper. He was the supposed-to-be new hero of Scottish curling.

That was 16 years ago. Less than two decades since the advent of the Free Guard Zone. So what happened to Tommy boy? Where's he

been? What's he been doing?

"Do you know," says the 36-year-old Scottish skip from Aberdeen, who played in his first world men's championship at the Brandt Centre this past week, "with a wee bit of luck, any kind of luck, we'd have been here two or three times.

"I lost the (Scottish) final in 2000 to Bob Kelly and the Worlds were in Glasgow. If we'd have won that game, who knows how many times we'd have been here by now.

"That's the difference. If you look at (David) Murdoch (three years younger), when he played in his first final, he won it. And he's won a few since. I've lost three Scottish finals and I finally won the fourth one.

"I think to win Scotland this year was just such a relief. Back home everybody's been



LARRY WOOD
Morning Roar Editor

calling me the best player never to have won the Scottish championship. You get tarred with this stick and you get this monkey on your back. By the fourth final, it was the size of an elephant, you know?

"I know how Glenn Howard feels. But at least he's been there and done it. But they're a great team, aren't they? And how

many finals has he lost?

"We played Murdoch in the one final, led after seven and they just shot the lights out. They made everything — double peels, single peels, picking stones off the top,

freezes, you name it. They were on fire. No wonder they went on to win the Worlds — beating Kevin Martin three times in the process!"

Brewster skipped the same

batting order for a few years out of junior, then changed up and skipped another group from 2001 through 2006. His teams travelled to Canada,

on time," he says. "We didn't commit the same. You have to be practising at least five days a week.

Like these kids playing for me now are doing."

hell am I going to play with?" said the six-year manager and icemaker for Curl Aberdeen, a state of the art facility in the North Sea coast city.

"I thought, this could well be my last chance to find a decent team. I mean, this is not Canada. This is Scotland

beaten in the Scottish junior and men's finals. They're 22. They have some experience, though. They've been to the University Games. This team has a few similarities to team I had with Graeme Connal and my brother (in the early part of the last decade).

"These guys have soaked up everything I could teach them. If you saw us in the first tournament we played this season, the boys were raw, the sweeping was a bit erratic, we tightened up in everything. And every event we've been to since we've improved. And we've improved as each event went on. At the shots, at sweeping judgment, the works."

Now Tom Brewster feels he's been re-born on the teehead.

"It's a bit like (Kevin) Martin, eh?" he asks. "He got the younger guys out front. These guys I have are like that. You need guys like that nowadays. It's a long week. Eleven games in the round robin? And we have four back-to-back. But if we keep winning we'll be happy.

"It's early days. We just keep grinding away, taking each game as it comes. But we know we're not going to win all the games in the round robin. Let's be honest. It's how you handle it after you lose one."

Playing and winning this week represents the apex of Brewster's curling career to this point.

"I hope we'll keep this team together beyond the year," he says.



placed well in Slams and other cashspiels. They seemed to be doing "a lot of things right."

"That was a great team," Brewster recalls. "If we'd have won one of those finals, I think we'd have won a bunch."

But there may have been reasons why it didn't win. "If anything we were short

Ironically, Brewster is at the Brandt with a team of young players he formed just prior to this season.

"I'm sitting around last May wondering, who the

we're talking about. We're a little thin on the ground. If I don't find the right guys, I'm in trouble. So I had to get a young team that would commit. One that we can mold, playing in a particular way, you need to be aggressive all the time now. One that practises like I practise. I throw every day.

"We'll, it's been great. My second got silver in the World Juniors last year. He's 21. The other two were

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HELPING HANDS: From left to right, Shirley Schmirler, Shannon England, Jenna England, and Sara England, as well as Nora Yeates of the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, take part in a cheque presentation Saturday night at the Brandt Centre. The Sandra Schmirler Foundation, dedicated to neo-natal care across Canada, has donated \$50,000 to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

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WCF touts its own Roar of the Rings

Larry Wood
Eye Opener Editor

It has been well documented, of course — the differences in approaches national teams take to the game of curling.

North Americans, and particularly Canadians, play the game for (a) money, and (b) country. In Europe, it's the other way around. And the impetus behind the European philosophy is something called the Winter Olympic Games.

This season is one of those post-Olympic winters when curling teams re-adjust and august administrative bodies such as the World Curling Federation do likewise.

And where Olympic qualification for 2014 is

concerned, the WCF has changed its system at the behest of the International Olympic Committee, a less-than-august administrative body housing dukes and princes and other assorted billionaires who are all-knowing when it comes to the world of sport.

WCF director of competitions Keith Wendorf says the WCF alterations for future Games qualifying have been approved in principle by the IOC types.

"They (IOC) didn't like the three-year qualification period where teams would have compiled points from three world championships qualifying for the Games in 2014," relates Wendorf, a native Canadian who skipped Germany in seven Worlds and now resides in Alsace.

"They (IOC) wanted it

reduced to 18 months. Their argument is they want current, good-quality athletes in peak form at the time of the Olympics. We asked for 23 months which would encompass a time frame of two world championships and that's where we're headed now."

All of which suggests the current scuffle at the Brandt Centre is the quadrennial skip-year, so to speak . . . bereft of Olympic qualification points.

Not so, says Wendorf.

"We (the WCF) want to maintain a uniform importance for the Worlds," he says. "So while the current debate won't qualify any-

body for Olympic points, it will qualify nations for a tournament in which teams can play if they don't gain enough qualification points in the next two Worlds."

Let's call this the World Pre-Trials. A back-door route to beautiful downtown Sochi on the coast of the Black Sea. It's a similar idea to the one Canada unveiled in November, 2009, in Prince George, B.C. Four teams of each gender went straight to the Canadian trials proper, and

four others of each gender emerged from a 12-team pre-trials.

In this case, the top seven nations in the world and the host (Russia) will go into

the Olympics via points amassed from the world championships of 2012 and 2013. Everybody else who has played in any of the three Worlds, including this year's, will play in the pre-qualification tournament for the final two Olympic berths. In other words, one world-championship appearance ensures a berth in the pre-qualifying tournament in November, 2013.

"It looks like Korea and Denmark will get low points here this week," mused Wendorf.

"Say they don't qualify for the next two Worlds. They'll still get a crack at the Games through the pre-qualifying tournament. Everybody here gets a point or points. Everybody here qualifies for at least the tournament."

This points cutback sort of

mirrors what's happening in Canada this season. Canadian Team Ranking System points will not figure in qualifying for the national trials at Winnipeg, beyond qualifying the top four for Pre-Trials. They should call that The Burnout Rule.

"What this does," says Wendorf of the WCF innovation, "is it keeps the dream alive and, maybe, it keeps the funding alive. I mean, everybody here can go back to their funding arm, whether it be their national Olympic association or curling association, and say, 'Listen, we've already qualified for this tournament, there should be some funding available.'"

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Page 10**



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FWMCC Medal Totals

(year of first participation in brackets)

Country	G	S	B	Total
Canada (1959)	33	8	6	47
Scotland (1959)	5	19	8	32
USA (1961)	4	6	12	22
Sweden (1962)	5	6	5	16
Switzerland (1964)	3	6	7	16
Norway (1964)	3	4	8	15
Germany (1967)	0	5	2	7
Denmark (1973)	0	0	2	2
Finland (1988)	0	0	2	2
France (1966)	0	0	1	1

FWMCC Medallists

(gold, silver, bronze)

- 2011 — Canada, Scotland, Sweden
- 2010 — Canada, Norway, Scotland
- 2009 — Scotland, Canada, Norway
- 2008 — Canada, Scotland, Norway
- 2007 — Canada, Germany, USA
- 2006 — Scotland, Canada, Norway
- 2005 — Canada, Scotland, Germany
- 2004 — Sweden, Germany, Canada
- 2003 — Canada, Switzerland, Norway
- 2002 — Canada, Norway, Scotland
- 2001 — Sweden, Switzerland, Norway
- 2000 — Canada, Sweden, Finland
- 1999 — Scotland, Canada, Switzerland

EYE OPENER

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Larry Wood

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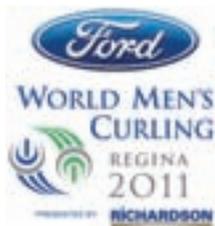
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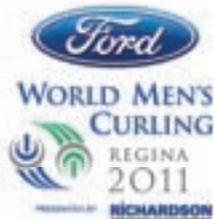


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Dufour heads up a French revolution

Larry Wood
Eye Opener Editor

If you happen to be a curler looking for a challenge the size of Mont Blanc, playing in France would be your ticket.

Don't believe it? Check with Thomas Dufour, the 39-year-old ski guide who has been trying for the last decade to elevate the level of the game in his home country.

Mont Blanc just happens to be the highest mountain in Europe and Dufour lives right underneath it . . . in Chamonix. He and his curling team have been practising there, in the hockey arena, for years.

They're still waiting for sports officials to decide the game is worth an exclusive home, which is to say a curling club complete with sheets

of curling ice.

France has been involved at the world men's curling championship since 1966, don't you know? That's 46 years! It was only the seventh nation to join the world curling party, seven years after the event was invented. So there always have been rocks and brushes and the odd curler in France, but never any curling ice, per se.

Sacre bleu!

"More and more people know about curling but we still have no facilities for the game," admits Dufour, who has skipped French teams in six of the last eight Worlds and the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

"We have no clubs, we have no membership. It's difficult. On the players side, we have to make the media come and the money come and try to do

something about growing the sport."

There appear to be more deaf ears and blind eyes in French curling circles than a lot of other European jurisdictions. But Dufour perseveres, beating the same old drum.

Last week at the Ford World Men's Curling Championship at the Brandt Centre, Dufour tied a French record for wins at the tournament with seven — a mark originally logged by Pierre Boan in 1973 on roughly the same Saskatchewan grounds.

Dufour would eventually lose a tiebreaker to Norway on Friday and finish with a 7-5 record. No one but Dufour or Boan have won six games at the FWMCC. But the notice back home is negligible, it seems.

"We have come from nowhere," Dufour says. "We



French skip Thomas Dufour notes: "We have come from nowhere."

were very proud to go to the Olympics but it's not the only goal. We want the curling to improve in France.

"The Olympics is very big in France but the world curl-

ing championship and the European curling championship, they really are nothing."

In fact, France isn't considered a winter sports nation: "In the Alps you can find good skiers and good ski teams and the French hockey team is not bad. That's about it."

Dufour and long time mate Tony Angiboust have formed a new team this year. The old one led the French league in commitment.

Five years ago, they travelled to Montreal and spent the Christmas holidays and some time thereafter training for the team's first Worlds as a unit. They worked with coach Dan Rafael, who went on to perform wonders with the Chinese and now is head coach of the Italian national curling program.

"We really wanted to perform well," Dufour recalled at

the 2007 show in Edmonton.

"We'd given a lot of time for curling. We were just sick and fed up with losing games too easy. We wanted to have fun on the ice and play good games. If we lost and we played well and we were close — OK, we lost. But we decided there'd be no more shaking hands every time after six ends. We were tired of that. We would either try to improve or just stop curling."

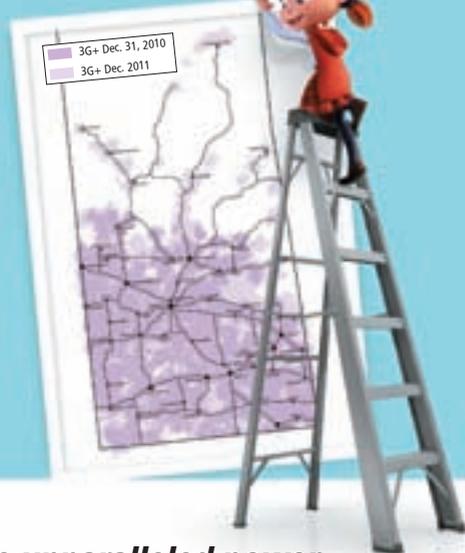
Oh yes, and . . .

"We also wanted to play at the Worlds every year — we hadn't been there so often."

France showed up in three of the 13 Worlds previous to 2007, in fact. Dufour has directed traffic in every renewal since.

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World will whoop it up in Lethbridge

Larry Wood
Eye Opener Editor

When the Ford World Women's Curling Championship holds forth 11 months from now at Lethbridge's Enmax Centre, the surroundings will be world-class.

That's because Lethbridge's Enmax is undergoing a \$30-million renovation that will be completed by early next year.

"There'll be no change in the seating," says Ford Worlds chair Jody Meli, who chaired a profitable Scotties in the same icehouse in 2008.



Jody Meli: Also chaired the Scotties back in 2008.

"But everything else will be brand spanking new."

There's no need to expand the pews. The Enmax already seats 5,000.

"I like to say that Lethbridge showed the curling

world what we were made of when we hosted the Scotties," says Meli.

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“Up to November, 2013, we still have a chance to get to the Olympics.”

“This could mean more funding for training or for national curling programs,” adds Wendorf. “Without the tournament idea, if we just cut it down to the pointgetters from the last two Worlds, a lot less widespread interest would be generated and a lot of programs could slide and maybe even die.”

Translated by projecting the round-robin standings at the Brandt as an example, Canada, Scotland (Great Britain for Olympic purposes), Sweden, Germany, France, Switzerland, Norway and Russia would be your automatic Olympic entries. China, Korea, the Czechs, Denmark and the U.S. would be relegated to pre-qualifying.

Any way you slice it, this will make future pre-Olympic speculation infinitely more intriguing. You know China, for one, is going to

From Page 6

WCF: Run-up to Winter Olympics more intriguing

become stronger over the next couple of years.

Can you imagine the U.S. having to pre-qualify?

“We’ll have to wait until we see how many teams wind up qualifying (for the pre-qualifying),” says Wendorf. “I’m guessing maybe eight teams. In which case a round-robin event of some sort would be ideal.”

Too many teams, of course, would necessitate a move to some sort of triple-knockout competition.

No triple-KO draw is perfectly equitable without an even 16 teams involved, you understand. And 16 qualifiers surfacing over

and above the top eight is highly unlikely. At least for the next decade or so.

One question arises. Which nation gets to host this new pre-qualifier tournament? Does the host get an automatic berth?

“The decision is no,” says Wendorf. “But bids will be taken to host the tournament. And the rules state any nation who does bid must at least qualify for a world championship.

“So you can’t get in simply by bidding to host the pre-qualifying tournament.”

The WCF envisions the event along the lines of Canada’s Roar Of The

Rings or the preceding Road To The Roar.

“We can hype it up with TV,” suggests Wendorf. “It would make sense that bids come from nations whose teams are in it.”

A bid from any of the top nations, of course, would generate cursory interest at best.

“By bidding, I don’t mean anybody is going to offer us money — nobody seems to do that,” says Wendorf. “But there’ll be offers to host it. And then we’ll get a hosting agreement with them.

“It might be wise for a nation whose top team is not playing well to bid to host the thing . . . in hopes it favours their team.”

That could result in a turnaround, maybe even a boost, for that particular floundering national team.

Expect China to start flexing its curling muscle in the years leading up to 2014 at Sochi.



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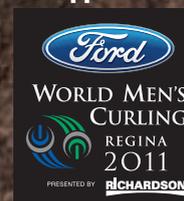
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Something else. “We’d like to show the city (it owns the Enmax) that its investment paid off from the community’s perspective, that we’re now able to hold these kinds of international events.”

By strange coincidence next winter, the Scotties will be staged one month earlier, four hours up the highway at Red Deer’s Centrum.

This would be seem to be an ideal opportunity to combine marketing and ticket packaging.

“That wouldn’t be a call that we make,” says Meli. “That would be up to the Canadian Curling Association.

“But I think we’ll be able to build on the fact the

From Page 9 WHOOP

Canadian winner for our event will be decided in Red Deer.

“It may or may not adversely affect our early ticket sales. People may wait to buy tickets until later, depending on who wins the Scotties and represents Canada.”

Maybe. But not likely. If Lethbridge, a city of roughly 90,000 residents, winds

up with the kind of competition just completed at Esbjerg, Denmark, with somebody of Amber Holland’s calibre representing

Canada, customers will be clamouring to take part.

“We didn’t project attendance at the Scotties

because I didn’t want it to be the focus of the event,” Meli says. “Whether or not you met that number, you know?”

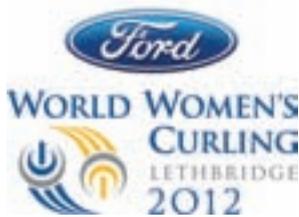
“I wanted it to be more about the experience people had. An experience for the spectators, the curlers and the volunteers.”

It will no different at the Ford Worlds, which will deploy some 410 volunteers, slightly less than the Scotties.

“The CCA has taken on some of the responsibilities in terms of the amount of work we need to do, and that is a good thing,” says Meli. “We think we can equal the success of our Scotties, and that our community will respond.”

A percentage of profits, of course, go to area curling clubs based on volunteer numbers.

“People in Lethbridge are talking this up as a real coup because of the international flavour,” says Meli.



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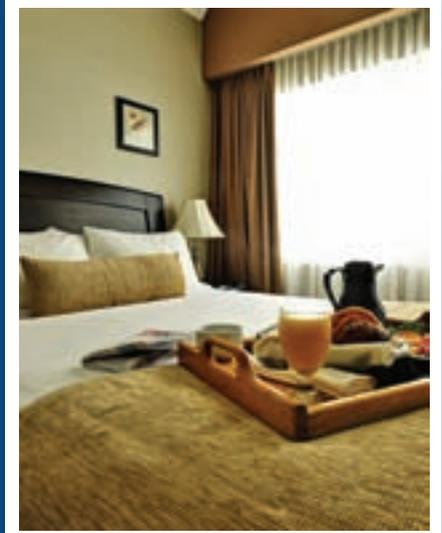
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“To be honest, we haven’t even talked about it. We’ve worked hard, there’s been a lot of work getting here, and I don’t think we’re looking anywhere beyond the next game. But I’d like to think there are a few more years ahead for this team, that there’ll be some loyalty there. The hard thing for us is we’re not all in the same town.”

If we want to meet in Perth to practise we have to travel. We don’t practise as a team that often and that’s the bad thing.”

Nothing helps to mend that sort of problem more than funding, and winning generates more funding.

But there’s another Winter Olympic plum on the horizon and Brewster has a taste for plums.

“The British format for Olympics is about to change — again — and who knows what direction things are going? What it boils down to is, if you go out and curl

From Page 4 **WOOD: Brewster eyeing 2014 Games**

well they can’t overlook you. I’m not daft. I know I have to pick up my game a little bit and work harder. I’m in the right place. I just have to win.”

He’s of the opinion that, judging from the way it panned out, mistakes were made with the Scottish system leading up to 2010.

“Two years ago and the year after, Murdoch’s was the right team to go,” says Brewster. “They won

Worlds, they were red hot. With six months to go, they weren’t so hot. They probably were burned out by that point. They’d played their best curling. They had been the best team in the world!”

Meanwhile, Brewster’s family isn’t without its share of curling prowess.

He married Kim Morris six years ago. She played for Kelly Wood in the 2006 World Women’s at Grande Prairie.

Kim’s brother married Cori Bartel of the Olympic silver-medal-winning Cheryl Bernard team during the past off-season. He also won the world junior in 1994 with Colin Davison of Edmonton. And their mother Carolyn won the world seniors at Paisley in 2005.

“We have a few medals in the family,” Brewster allows.

“I’d like to contribute another to the collection.”

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The Scots erupted like gangbusters when Brewster unleashed a runback split triple on the first end to force Canada to a single. After an inconsequential blank, Brewster hit for two in the third, keyed by another spectacular Brewster triple, and stole a single in the fourth.

A critical Scottish miss in the fifth end signalled the game's first big turnaround. It enabled Canada to set the table for a go-ahead three-ender and a 3-2 lead.

"That was the big shot," said Brewster later of third Greg Drummond's attempt to follow a Jon Mead stone behind cover in the four-foot that wound up wide open.

"He could afford to be heavy but he had to be tight. That definitely was the key shot. All of a sudden, we didn't have the red rocks in the rings any more."

Brewster executed a clutch tap to square the account in the sixth but after a blank seventh Canada was afforded a

From Page 3 WORLD

draw for a deuce in the eighth. Then Brewster overthrew a hit for a tying deuce in the ninth and rolled out, leaving Canada with the hammer and the one-point advantage.

The jig was up. "I'm overwhelmed," gasped birthday-boy Mead moments after the handshakes. "I'm absolutely overwhelmed. It's the greatest day of my life. I miss my mom (she passed away two years ago), I miss my wife and kids, and I'm tired and I want a beer, and I just love the guys I play with."

Mead said he'd never experience such excitement in curling. "I couldn't get my heart rate down. We were nervous, no doubt. That's an all-or-nothing game. We played the whole year for that one game. And we found a way. Jeff said, 'C'mon boys, give me chance,' and we did

that. We got real fortunate today. We'll take it and I'm not going to apologize for it."

Mead had a little reminder of his mother scribbled on his broom handle.

"Every time I got tight I looked at it," he said. "You know, this is why we play the game? I'm blown away, man. I'm absolutely blown away. And I've just got to thank my guys. Does it any better than this? Well, my hair could grow back tomorrow, I guess."

Stoughton attempted to explain "a special feeling."

"There's nothing better than a world championship," he said, clutching the championship trophy. "It's better than the Brier. It's one more step past the Brier and this is so much sweeter. I'm just so glad we got this one done."

Playing in front of a final-night crowd of 5,854 at the Brandt was "such a rush," Stoughton said.

Brewster said he'd probably recall his birthday in a more

favourable light later: "A few months from now I'll be quite happy to remember it," he said. "But right now I'm gutted. Oh boy, did we have things going our way. Then we gave up a soft three. If we kept him to two it's different. But they played a great last end. It didn't matter if I get my two in nine. I must have eased that one back a bit. The ice was so fast. Don't get me wrong though. The ice was great. I have absolutely no complaints about that."

Norway skip Thomas Ulsrud was named winner of the Collie Campbell Award, voted by the players for sportsmanship and ability.

Total attendance for the nine-day event was 99,445.

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Rockin' Trivia:

What country has won the most World Men's Curling Championships?

United States	Canada
Switzerland	Scotland

Answer: Canada has won 27 of a possible 42 Men's World Championships.

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Knowledge grows

“We worked with Andre Ferland (of Trois-Rivieres, Que.) for two years prior to the Olympics, so now we have no more real coaches but it seems to be working for us this week,” says Dufour. “We have a kind of team leader and an experienced curler. Not a real coach.

“We weren't so happy with the Olympic effort. We were involved a lot, the team arrived in good shape . . . two months too early.

“At the Olympics we were a little burned, or something. But we were pleased to get seventh place, which is more than France can expect for a country with no curling.”

Adds Ferland, who remains a close friend of the team and is a spectator this week at the Brandt: “They burned out. There were injuries. They were fed up by the time the Games came. Tired of curling. You need to have the feeling that you want to play. When you don't have that, when you're tired of it, you're wasting your time.”

From Page 8

FRENCH

This year, the team arrived for the Worlds only six days early in order to acclimatize.

“We used to come much earlier,” Dufour admits, “but we don't have the money any more. Right now, we don't have 98 per cent of the money we had last year.

“We hope our result here will give us more points and impress our federation that we need more funding. It will be very difficult to keep on going, the way it is this year. It will not be possible to have any success at this level. We hope they will see we are very serious and give us the chance to perform well again. We try to make those points but we have to keep pushing and with a good result we should expect something.”

The team holds one practice per week in Chamonix.

And most weekends, sessions in Basel, Switzerland.

“It is two-and-a-half hours driving for us,” says Dufour. “Each way. Then we stop playing curling for seven days. It's not the best way to improve but it is the only way we can make it.”

Angiboust is a novice ski guide. Rookie second Lionel Roux is from Marseille but lives in Lausanne, Switzerland. Rookie lead Wilfrid Coulot is a pastry chef from Besancon.

“They are doing much better than I expected,” says Ferland. “I believe much better than they were expecting, too.

“These guys had never really been coached. When I came with them for the Olympics, I found it delicate trying to help the team without bothering the team. There were things I'd have liked to change but they were so used to doing things the way they had always done them . . . and many things turned out well.”



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Larry Wood
Eye Opener Editor

The expectations for the success of this Ford World curling championship were ... well ... reasonably high.

"Quite frankly," said Regina organizing committee chairman Derek Boe on Friday, "the response has been beyond all our best expectations."

Which is to say, curling is in good condition in southern Saskatchewan. Or maybe it's just an indication of a surging Saskatchewan economy?

"Definitely, the upturn is huge," said Boe, a 37-year-old investment advisor who knows about such things.

"There's money to spend here, people are generally optimistic and Saskatchewan is a good place to be."

Crowds at the Brandt Centre are a fair indicator.

"When we bid this event a year ago," said Boe, "we really didn't know how it would be received by the curling community. It would be fair to say that when we put the bid together it didn't have unanimous support from the curling community in Regina. There certainly were some people who thought then, and maybe rightfully so, that we had promoted a number of events here and this one might not be as successful as it has turned out to be."

Queen City still proving itself a superior host

No doubt about it. Regina has been a regular stop on the curling circuit. It hadn't hosted a world men's event since 1983, but it had hosted

changer, and what we saw at the world women's in Swift Current last year and the world junior hockey championships the year

all Team Canada draws and slightly less was anticipated for the balance of draws.

"Now, I'm guessing our total attendance figure will

"But the profits that will be returned to us — they're tough to estimate but I think it will be \$200,000 or so — will be divided between six

Scotties drew 97,617.

Boe says he's already had discussions about a next curling-event bid for the city.

"The doors are never closed on the future," he said. "I think the Brier is next on the radar. It looks like maybe in 2015, logistically, we'd consider taking a run at it."

Rumours abound, too, that the soon-to-be-completed

new arena at Moose Jaw would be an ideal future Worlds site.



"I'd say they'd be anxious to hold something," Boe surmised.

"Curling is near and dear to my heart and we're all here for the same reason, which is to generate profits and make our curling clubs viable. As long as that remains the case I'll certainly be involved in some capacity."

And there are no signs of an economic downturn in these parts which might inhibit future curling-event bids.

"The chief economist with the company I work for says that for the next six years we expect Saskatchewan, with its potash, uranium, oil and agriculture, to lead the country in growth," Boe said. "With Newfoundland and Alberta right behind us."



Derek Boe:
"A very successful event for us ... the response has been beyond all our best expectations."

a Brier (2006), two Scotties (1998, 2008), an Olympic trials (2001) and a Continental Cup (2002) within the last dozen years.

Question was, how often could you go to the same well for volunteers, sponsors and fans?

"Looking at the crowds out there now," said Boe, "people have come out in spades.

"What's been a game-

before that, is those 50-50 machines. They have changed the economics of these events so much that while you still want to push and have a very successful event, you know the 50-50 is going to be able to create a bit of a legacy for your curling clubs."

When Boe's committee drew up budgets for this affair, 80 per cent arena capacity was projected for

be anywhere from north of 100,000 to close to 120,000," he said. "When we add up the numbers, I'm sure we're going to see that this is a very successful event for us.

"We had to cut back in certain areas and we operated on a tight budget. We've had complaints that this wasn't like it was last time and we're constantly dealing with that.

stakeholders. That would be three Regina curling clubs — the Callie, Highland and Tartan, Curl Regina, Youth Curling and the Saskatchewan Curling Association.

For the record, Regina's premier curling attraction was the Sandra Schmirler homecoming Scotties in 1998 (attendance 154,688). The 2006 Brier drew 125,971, the 1992 Brier drew 121,555 and the 2008

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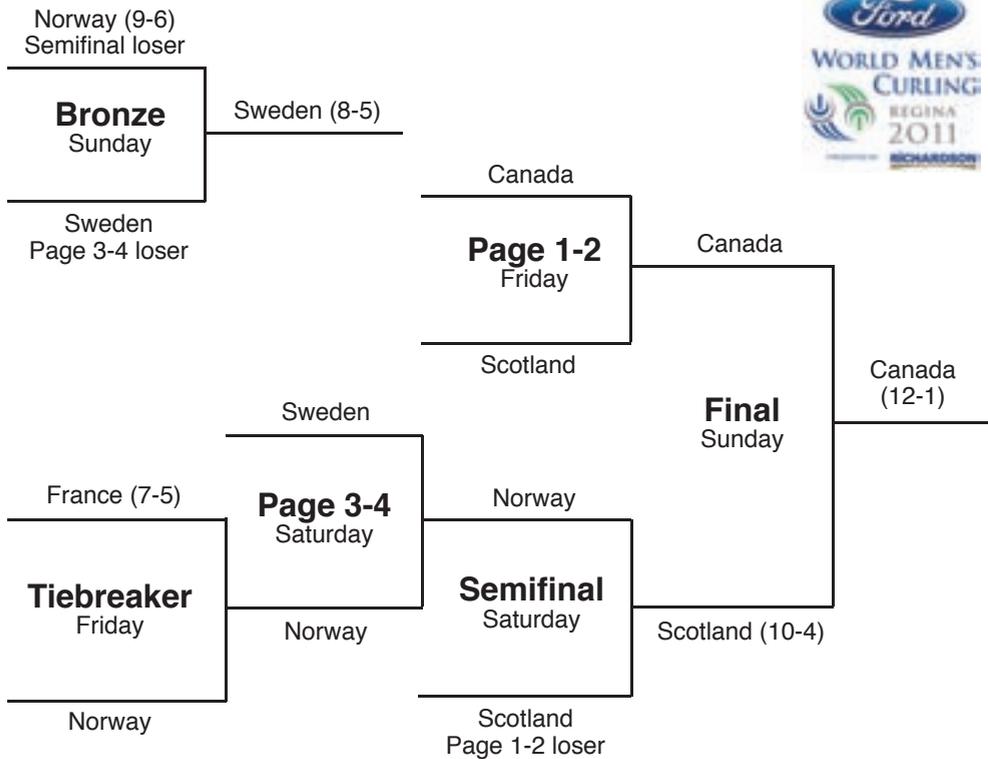
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Bronze ‘means the world’ to Edin and Co.

Todd Kimberley
Eye Opener Associate Editor

They might have missed the odd cue this week, but Sunday afternoon was showtime for Niklas Edin and Co.

Despite a disappointing week at the 2011 Ford World Men’s Curling Championship, presented by Richardson, Sweden finished on a high note — earning a bronze medal with a 7-6 victory over Norway at the Brandt Centre.

“We really focused on a good game here,” said Edin, skip of Sweden’s Karlstad-based entry that includes third Sebastian Kraupp, second Fredrik Lindberg, and lead Viktor Kjaell, “because this tournament has really been unfortunate for us.

“I think we played about as well as we thought we could, but we’ve had some odd mistakes and a couple of really bad breaks, and that’s not like us,” added Edin. “Today, we were a bit more hungry out there. We really tried to nail every shot, every time.

“This takes a lot of pressure off us. We really wanted to pick up that medal; the bronze means the world to us.”

The Swedes landed a solid blow with two in the eighth end, making it 6-4, as Edin

drew to the button for the deuce after Norwegian skip Thomas Ulsrud had come up short on a draw attempt with his final stone.

Norway countered with two of its own in the ninth. Edin knocked two of his own stones out of the rings trying to remove a Norwegian guard with his first throw, and Ulsrud took full advantage with a hit-and-minimal-roll for a pair.

In the 10th, the house was empty until Edin drew into

the 12-foot ring with his first stone. Ulsrud removed the rock and stayed in the 12-foot, but Edin executed a near-perfect draw, grabbing a piece of the button for the game-winning single.

It was the first medal for the Swedes at the men’s world championship since 2004, when Peja Lindholm — currently Sweden’s national coach — captured gold on home soil at Gavle, Sweden.

Sunday’s win also capped a banner year for Swedish curling. The women, led by Anette Norberg won the world title last month at Esbjerg, Denmark, while the junior men, helmed by Oskar Eriksson, captured a global crown in mid-March at Perth, Scotland.

While Sweden finished with an 8-5 record, the Norwegians (9-6) concluded a roller-coast-



Niklas Edin captured Sweden’s first FWMCC medal since 2004.

er ride of a tournament.

The 2010 Olympic runners-up stumbled to a 2-4 start, reeled off seven straight wins — including a tiebreaker over France on Friday and a Page

Playoff 3-4 victory over Sweden on Saturday — before falling to Scotland in Saturday night’s tournament semifinal.

“You desperately want a medal. That’s the main goal. When you end up just short of that? I’m not happy,” said Ulsrud, whose Oslo-based quartet includes third Torger Nergaard, second Christoffer Svae, and lead Haavard Vad Petersson.

Norway’s fourth-place finish ended the country’s string of FWMCC medals at three — bronze in 2008 at Grand Forks, N.D., bronze in 2009 at Moncton, N.B., and silver last year at Cortina, Italy.

“We didn’t pull off the big shots. You hate to lose a game like this,” added Ulsrud. “Often, the team that loses the semi also loses the bronze final as well. That’s the feeling I have, anyway.”

Sunday’s Bronze-Medal Game Sweden 7 Norway 6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	T
Norway*	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	6
Sweden	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	7
%age	Lead	Second	Third	Skip	Team						
Norway	89	86	75	74	81						
Sweden	93	84	89	84	87						

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