



ALBERTA'S KEVIN KOE



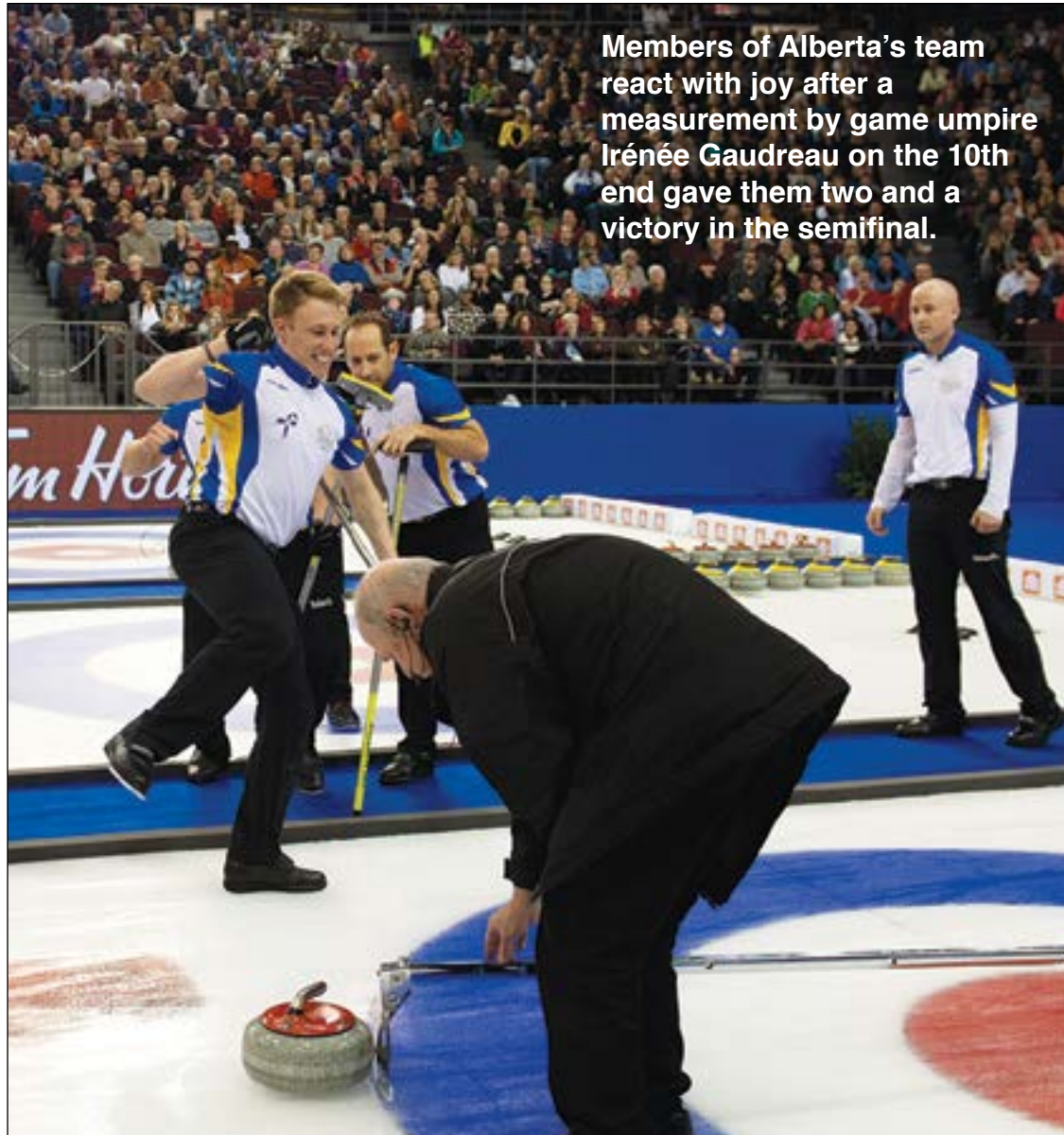
NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR'S BRAD GUSHUE

**Make the final . . .**





# Semifinal



Members of Alberta's team react with joy after a measurement by game umpire Irenée Gaudreau on the 10th end gave them two and a victory in the semifinal.

## ROAD to the FINAL



How Newfoundland/Labrador made it to the Tim Hortons Brier final:

- Game 1: W MB 5-4
- Game 2: L ON 4-3
- Game 3: W NT 6-3
- Game 4: W SK 7-5
- Game 5: W NB 7-4
- Game 6: W AB 4-3
- Game 7: W CA 7-3
- Game 8: W QC 7-6
- Game 9: W BC 8-7
- Game 10: W PE 11-4
- Game 11: L NO 4-1

Page Playoff  
1-2 Game: W NO 7-6

How Alberta made it to the Tim Hortons Brier final:

- Game 1: L ON 5-4
- Game 2: W NB 10-4
- Game 3: W PE 10-4
- Game 4: W NT 8-7
- Game 5: W MB 9-5
- Game 6: L NL 4-3
- Game 7: L NO 8-3
- Game 8: W BC 7-5
- Game 9: W QC 9-4
- Game 10: W CA 8-3
- Game 11: W SK 7-5

Page Playoff  
3-4 Game: W MB. 7-5

Page Playoff  
Semifinal: W NO. 6-5



Brad Gushue  
NL



Kevin Koe  
Alberta

# Alberta by a whisker!

## Measurement sends Koe to final

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**

*Tankard Times Associate Editor*

It took 10 nail-biting ends and a measurement on the winning point for Kevin Koe of Alberta to squeeze past Brad Jacobs of Northern Ontario 6-5 in the Tim Hortons Brier semifinal Saturday evening.

Alberta had a stone that neither team was overly confident was a bit-er, but a measurement showed it was

for second shot, giving Alberta the only deuce of the game, in the 10th end, and the victory.

Koe, third Marc Kennedy, second Brent Laing, lead Ben Hebert, alternate Scott Pfeifer and coach John Dunn will play Brad Gushue of Newfoundland-Labrador in Sunday's championship game. Gushue advanced to the final on Friday by beating Jacobs 7-6 in 11 ends in the Page 1-2 game.

Jacobs will play Mike McEw-

en of Manitoba for the bronze medal. McEwen lost to Koe, 7-5, in Saturday's Page 3-4 game. The bronze medal game goes today at 2:30 p.m. with the championship game at 7:30 p.m.

"We got some nice breaks, nice misses (by Northern Ontario) early in the game," said Kennedy.



**See Semifinal  
Page 3**

## SCOREBOARD

### SEMIFINAL

Alberta..... 010 101 010 2 — 6  
Northern Ontario..... 101 010 101 0 — 5

ALTA	SH	P	%	N. ONT.	SH	P	%
Hebert	20	73	91	R. Harnden	20	69	86
Laing	20	72	90	E.J. Harnden	20	72	90
Kennedy	20	71	89	Fry	20	62	78
Koe	20	66	83	Jacobs	20	64	80
Team Totals	80	282	88	Team Totals	80	267	83



# Semifinal

FROM PAGE 2

“We could have been out of that pretty early, so we felt lucky to be in the game and have that opportunity. We’re lucky and we’re very grateful to have the opportunity (today).

Jacobs made a superb hit and roll with his final shot in 10 but he left just a sliver of his rock peeking out from behind the guard and that’s all Koe needed to pick it out. Then it was the measurement for the win.

“We had one shot left, we had to roll another couple of inches,” a dejected Jacobs said of his final shot. “For the game to come down to a measurement, that’s just kind of the way it went for us, Everything was just barely missed. They got the good breaks and they hung in, curled really well. We curled well enough to win, but a few of my shots were missed and as a result we couldn’t pull it out.

“It just hurts right now. It was in our own hands. We could have won this thing, but it wasn’t meant to be this time.”

Koe said he was fairly confident the bitter was in because they had a measurement in nine that he thought was out and it was in “so that helped, but you never want to count on a measure for the extra point.

“Brad had a couple of uncharacteristic misses and let us off the hook (early). But when we had the chance we seized it and we’re moving on.”



**Louis Tanguay of Winkler MB was presented Curling Canada’s Volunteer of the Year Award on Saturday for making a profound contribution to the sport during the 2014-15 season. Making the presentation was Peter Inch, vice-chair, Curling Canada Board of Governors.**



**Tyrel Griffith, second on Team B.C. at this year’s Tim Hortons Brier, was awarded the Ross Harstone Trophy on Saturday. The Trophy is presented each year to the player chosen by his peers as the curler who best represents Ross G.L. Harstone’s high ideals of good sportsmanship, observance of the rules, exemplary conduct and curling ability.**



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 Anderson, Larry  
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 Address, Wanita  
 Andrews-Clay, Kathryn  
 Armstrong, Diane  
 Arnold, Paula  
 Arrowsmith, Dana  
 Assang, Wanda  
 Atfield, Jesse  
 Au, Stephen  
 Austin, Jill  
 Balfour, Virginia (Ginny)  
 Ballantine, Murray  
 Barry, Glen  
 Bates, Dave  
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 Beairsto, Andrea  
 Beaton, Larry  
 Beaton, Susan  
 Beaudoin, Rene  
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 Bell, David  
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 Benoit, Louis  
 Bernard, Tony  
 Bernardi, Brian  
 Berry, Dianne  
 Berry, Linda  
 Bertrand, Colleen  
 Bertrand, Diane  
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 Best, Marilyn  
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 Birtwistle, Alexandra  
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 Blaney, Jennifer-Lynn  
 Bock, Elfrieda  
 Bonin, Cindy  
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 Booth, Sandy  
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 Brenholen, Linda  
 Briere, Eric  
 Briggs, Brian  
 Brimicombe, Elaine  
 Brisco, Anita  
 Brisson, David  
 Brougham, Petra  
 Brunet, Heather  
 Brunet, John  
 Bucholtz, Keith  
 Buckley, Carol  
 Burgess, Diane  
 Burgess, Margo  
 Burgess, Margo  
 Burghout, Kyle  
 Butler-Rohland, Mark  
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 Campbell, Don  
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 Cappuccino, Luanna  
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 Carr, Katrina  
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Carroll, Cheryl  
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 Ellis, Jan  
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# CURLING QUIZ

1. TSN talking head and former Brier champ Russ Howard began honing his curling skills in this unusual way:

- a) Jam pail curling on Georgian Bay.
- b) Sliding cans of salmon from mom Barbara's larder on the linoleum floor in the kitchen.
- c) On the tabletop curling game in their dad Bill's pub when the bar was closed.
- d) Sliding their dad's round ashtrays on sheets of drywall in the garage.

2. If a deli wanted to name a sandwich after Alberta third Marc Kennedy, he would tell them to call it:

- a) The Southpaw Sub.
- b) Brier in a Bun.
- c) Curling Classic.
- d) The Hogline Hoagie.

3. True or False. John Morris of Team Canada once appeared on ET Canada for a Valentine's Day show featuring Canada's most eligible bachelors.

4. He said it: "Stereotypically, it seems to be more important for women to really have really great team dynamics in order to be successful, whereas with guys, stereotypically, as long as you get the (wins), you don't have to get along as perfectly. In terms

of strategy, it's definitely different on the men's and women's side. Because most of my experience has been coaching women, it has been a challenge for me to be able to go out in a timeout in the men's game and give them some input that's relevant."

- a) B.C. Coach Pat Ryan.
- b) Team Canada coach Earle Morris.
- c) New Brunswick coach Grant Odishaw.
- d) Quebec coach Robert Menard.

5. So tell us, Matt Wozniak, if you could play a sport other than curling full time, what would you be?

- a) "A golfer because you're on your own and there are no teammates to screw things up."
- b) "A NASCAR driver because I'm built for speed and those good old boys always seem to have babes following them around."
- c) "A middle linebacker in football because I really, really like putting the hurt on people and you can't do that in curling."
- d) "A starting pitcher in baseball. Who wouldn't want to make \$20 million for working once a week for six months a year?"

ANSWERS: 16



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— Angus McStone

## GET SOCIAL!

The feel of the ice, the roar of the game, and the cold, cold barley nectar! We want to hear about all of your stories at this year's Tim Hortons Brier! Great shots, triumphs or moments of awe — immortalize them into legend. Join your voice to the roar on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

    **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. Join your voice to the roar to send off the tournament in style!



**The Stabilizer** @stabilizercurl

"#BrierSpirit"



**Nicolas Neveu** @nrneveu

"Rockin' it!" #BrierSpirit #PatchSpirit



**Kevin McNamara** @MacmanFR

"What an amazing #Brier2016 week for my son. Opening ceremonies, pics, autographs. Thx @CurlingCanada." #BrierSpirit



# ONWARDS TO ST. JOHN'S

Angus McStone

Thanks Ottawa for a great time at the 2016 Tim Hortons Brier! See you next year in St. John's when curling legends clash again for the title!



“ THEY WILL SING SONGS ABOUT THIS ” — ANGUS McSTONE







**We've been throwing rocks for 10 days in a row so we didn't want to take the day off.**

— Brett Gallant



It was a quiet day for third Mark Nichols.

# LOW KEY DAY

## Gushue's team takes it easy in lead-up to final

By JOHN KOROBANIK

Tankard Times Associate Editor

Patience will be the key to success in the Tim Hortons Brier championship game Sunday, just as it has been for the last 10 days of stone throwing and sweeping.

Brad Gushue of Newfoundland-Labrador secured his spot in the 7:30 p.m. final at TD Place with a last-rock, 7-6, 11-end win over Brad Jacobs of Northern Ontario in Friday's Page 1-2 playoff game. That earned Gushue, third Mark Nichols, second Brett Gallant, lead Geoff Walker and coach Jules Owchar the day off Saturday.

Not the entire day off, of course. They were on the ice practicing in the morning, had

some Brier commitments in the afternoon and then watched some of the Page 3-4 and semifinal games.

"It was nothing too serious," Gallant said. "We came out to practice, just keeping the routine. We've been throwing rocks for 10 days in a row so we didn't want to take the day off. Pretty low key day. You rest a lot. Have good meals and take it easy."

The team hardly needed much practice. As the team they are shooting a cumulative 93 per cent through 12 games – Gushue 95; Nichols 92; Gallant 91; and Walker 92.



See **LOW KEY** Page 16

  
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# 3-4 GAME

# Alberta puts on a clinic

## Koe firing on all cylinders in dispatching Manitobans

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**  
HeartChart Associate Editor

Kevin Koe made all the shots he had to while Mike McEwen had some early struggles and that was more than enough for Alberta to take a 7-5 victory over Manitoba in the Tim Hortons Brier Page 3-4 playoff game Saturday.

“They played pretty much a perfect game,” McEwen said of Koe’s team after their clinical-like victory. “They executed perfectly. They got their deuce and forced us and that’s not a very good feeling when a team is playing well. We got one miss out of him the entire game.”

Koe, third Marc Kennedy, second Brent Laing and lead Ben Hebert scored deuces in the second and fourth ends to take control of the game and rarely gave McEwen, third B.J. Neufeld, second Matt Wozniak and lead Denni Neufeld opportunities to get back into the game.

“Mike had just little misses, a little off when we got those deuces and that’s all it takes sometimes,” said Koe. “After that we controlled the game. Any time you can get up two, its tough to come back.”

Koe had a slim chance at four in the second end. He tried a tight double to get two Manitoba stones out of a cluster in the back of the rings. He got one but the second jammed and Alberta settled for a deuce.

“I would have changed a shot call in the

second end,” McEwen said of his team putting themselves into the jam. “I got caught playing around the corner, didn’t quite make everything perfect and got down two. After that, every time we got a little bit something going, he just made everything perfect.”

After Manitoba took one in the third, McEwen rubbed a guard in the fourth trying for a hit-and-stick, leaving Koe a draw to sit three. McEwen made a wide double leaving Koe another draw for two and a 4-1 margin.

The Manitoba skip tried a risky raise double to get two in the fifth but was just wide and instead let Alberta steal a single. McEwen had another deuce possibility in six but jammed one Alberta stone onto his own, taking it out and leaving Manitoba with just another single.

It wasn’t until the eighth end, after Alberta had scored one in seven for a 6-2 lead that Koe made his first real miss of the game. Trying to punch a McEwen counter sideways out of the four-foot, the veteran Alberta skip was wide and left McEwen an easy draw for two.

It gave Manitoba hope, but it was faint and Koe ended it with a last-rock double for a single in nine and a three-point margin going into the final end.

“You get that early deuce it’s a comforting feeling. Kevin read the ice pretty good, we did a good job of managing the ice,” Kennedy said of the methodical Alberta win.




Kevin Koe and his Calgary team were spot on in the 3-4 game.



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“  
I guess I  
demand  
a lot.”

—Event manager  
Gord McNabb

## Event manager's a bit

By **PATRICK BUTLER**

*Tankard Times Writer*

**G**ord McNabb started curling when he was just four years old. His father was the volunteer ice maker/manger of the curling club in tiny Stalwart, SK, which was right across the road from his house.

“I used to go over there all the time,” McNabb says. “In the wintertime, we lived there.”

Decades later, he's managing a curling event that's a far cry from that small-town club in rural Saskatchewan: the 2016 Tim Hortons Brier.

It's McNabb's fourth stint as event manager at the Canadian men's curling championship. Before taking the reins in Ottawa, he ran the show in London in 2011, Kamloops in 2014, and Calgary in 2015. This is his 15th curling championship event as the event manager. He'd also previously volunteered on the 1994 Brier and the 1996 world juniors when they were hosted in Red Deer.

Some people call him “Crusty,” a nickname he developed back in 2004. It's not because he's a grouch, it's because he expects a lot from people at the events he directs.

“I guess I demand a lot,” he says. “We

# Crusty

have a lot of stakeholders involved in making sure that these events are run properly. The volunteers depend on us to give them proper direction and we can't disappoint people.

“So I get quite anxious, I guess you could say, if I see something happening that shouldn't be and I'm not really afraid to say something.”

So far, says McNabb, who criss-crosses the country every year organizing high-level Curling Canada events, the 2016 Brier has gone smoother than expected, including a healthy bump in ticket sales.

“We've exceeded our attendance objective. It's going to be, you know, pretty close to 115,000 or 120,000. Our objective was 105,000, so that's quite a few people,” says McNabb, who adds

organizers expect to make a profit when the Brier is all said and done.

“The more bums you have in the seats, the better it is for your ticket revenue. It also helps the building sell hamburgers and hot dogs and helps our Patch sell the odd beer, and hopefully people will stop and buy souvenirs at the same time.”

On Friday there were still tickets available for the weekend playoffs, said McNabb, but he expects a sold-out crowd for the championship game today.

“Don't be slow,” he cautions. “If you want to get your tickets, get them now.”

McNabb, who spends almost no time watching games on the ice because he's too busy making sure the event runs as it should, says the biggest challenge of hosting a Brier in Ottawa was the

length of time it's been since a Brier took place in the nation's capital.

“Things have changed a lot since 2001, and a lot for the people we're working with now, who weren't old enough to go into the Brier Patch then. So we have to re-educate and educate people a little,” he says.

But the toughest part of running an event like the Brier, says McNabb, is trying to please every person who walks through the arena doors.

“Everybody has an opinion, everybody has an idea on how the event should've been run differently. So you have to be patient. You have to take their suggestions, take their complaints and not only fans but you've got volunteers,” McNabb says.

“Sometimes I take it too personal. Nobody likes to see failure, and it's not that we don't try.

“We try our damndest to make these events run properly, but when something goes astray, you take it personal.”

Still, the event-managing vet says nothing beats the feeling he gets when an event is a success – that is, when the arena's filled with fans.

“It's pretty neat to see a full building,” he says. “So this weekend, when it's almost full, I'm going to be quite happy.”



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# The ENVELOPES

Attendance was great throughout the week.

## ... please!



DAVE KOMOSKY

You come to expect certain truths in this world. You expect to drop your toast under your bed, surprise company at dinner-time and a politician to speak out of both sides of his or her mouth.

And you certainly expect the Tim Hortons Brier to be a bang-up show.

Glad to say, this year's production was first-rate. The Ottawa organizing committee delivered exactly what it advertised, and the sport is much better for it.

Highlights? You got 'em. Low spots, there were a few, especially if you were from

Prince Edward Island..

Here, then, is a look at the Brier, piece-by-piece.

**The 12-team field** — Maybe the best of all-time. All the name teams were here, which made for a terrific field and some of the best curling anywhere. Anytime you have Glenn Howard playing at home, Kevin Koe, Pat Simmons, Brad Gushue and Mike McEwen in the field, what's not to like?

**The hero** — It was supposed to be Ontario's Howard, but it didn't work out, for whatever reason. That left the role of honour to Jamie Koe, skip of the Territories, who played

everybody tough all week, took his lumps, and finally snapped a 20-game losing streak at the Brier. Hats off to the Polars for a very good week that started with a win in the pre-qualifying round.

**The attendance** — The Scotties Tournament of Hearts was an attendance disappointment, so Curling Canada officials must have been overjoyed to see the response in Ottawa. Outstanding. The final is a sell-out.



See ENVELOPES OPPOSITE PAGE

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# Envelopes

FROM PAGE 12

**The Brier Patch** — Excellent. The Aberdeen Pavilion has seen better days, but it was a welcome spot for Brier fans, and only a few short steps from TD Place. They could have used a few more token booths, but that's nit-picking.

**The entertainment factor** — Lots and lots of good music and fun in the Patch. The best act was Keith Glass, of Prairie Oyster fame, who had everybody in a dancing mood.

**The arena** — The TD Centre has been around for a long time and its close proximity to downtown was a blessing. Wait until curling fans have to make the trek to Kanata for the Roar of the Rings Olympic Curling Trials. Now that's going to be a hike. But TD Place offered everything curling fans want, including restaurants and shops in the area.

**The ice** — Head icemaker Dave Merklinger was pulling his hair out near the middle of the week when it was raining in Ottawa, creating frost buildup inside, but he pulled it together just in time. The ice was never really a problem all week because the curlers were shooting the lights out.

**The curlers** — Some won, some lost but they were splendid with the media. No question went unanswered,

no interview request denied. Brier curlers proved once again they are a class act.

**Best quote** — Brad Gushue and Glenn Howard provided the best quotes all week, as expected. Mind you, they've had a lot of experience with the media over the years. The Koe brothers, on the other hand . . .

**Cooler sight** — Watching the father/son combinations on Team Ontario — dad Glenn Howard with son Scott, and third Richard Hart playing with fifth Joey, who got into a game Wednesday.

**Tear-jerking moment** — When longtime teammate Craig Savill, diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, stepped in to throw a couple of stones for Howard's Team Ontario on Thursday. Who will ever forget it?

**Best media newcomer:** Patrick Butler of the *Tankard Times*. The guy has a future in newspapers, if newspapers still have a future.

**Worst display:** Photographers and TV camera people who think they are exempt from standing at attention for the national anthem.

**Most disappointing no-show:** Angus McStone. We see him on television, why isn't he here?

**Best shot:** Quebec skip Jean-

Michel Ménard's perfectly-executed triple takeout and stick to score two in the 10th end for a 6-5 win over B.C. Tuesday morning. The shot not only had the Quebec team leaping in celebration on the ice, it also brought the fans in the stands jumping out of their seats in a standing ovation.

**Best uniforms:** Those military duds Team Canada wore on Monday.

**Most easily recognized fans:** The group from Nova Scotia in their bright yellow sou'-westers. Too bad they had to leave early when their team didn't make it out of pre-qualifying.

**Most yappy:** Alberta's Ben Hebert. He keeps up a constant commentary out there.

**The volunteers:** There were hundreds of them, but not one sourpuss in the lot? If there was, nobody could find him/her.

**The weather** — Plenty of snow around at the beginning, but things improved as the week progressed. Not bad.

**Best bar/pub:** Downtown it was the Highlander Pub where, if you liked Scotch, it was a piece of heaven. Closer to the action at TD Place it was a friendly spot called Irene's.

**The global prospects:** It doesn't matter who comes out of Canada, they'll be a handful at the worlds.

**The future** — The Brier is headed for St. John's next year, and it will be a hoot — guaranteed. The Brier is always spectacular when held in the Maritimes.



The appearance of Craig Savill at the Brier brought the crowd to its feet.

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Mike McEwen was outgunned in the 3-4 game.

# Dreams dashed

## McEwen thrilled by Brier experience

By **PATRICK BUTLER**

*Tankard Times Writer*

Manitoba's 2016 Tim Hortons Brier dreams of winning the Tim Hortons Brier in his first go-round ended Saturday after the skip and his Winnipeg-based team lost 7-5 to Alberta in the 3-4 Page playoff.

They now face Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs in this afternoon's bronze-medal game.

Alberta began the playoff game with the hammer, scored two in the first end and refused to relinquish control after that.

"Any time we had something a little bit going, (Koe) just made everything perfect," McEwen said. "I mean, they executed perfectly, they got their deuce and forced us and that's not a very good feeling when a team's playing well. We saw (Friday) night Gushue overcame that, so we knew there was a chance but we needed some help on their part and we didn't get any."

Incredibly, this year's event was McEwen's first appearance at a Canadian men's curling championship. The Brier rookie said despite Saturday's unfortunate result, he was proud of how his team performed while in Ottawa.

"We've handled the ice pretty well, maybe not as good as some of the teams in the playoffs have, but I thought we did, you know, a really good job," McEwen said. "You can have an amazing weekend and not win this, so we

played really well and I'm still happy with being here on the weekend."

McEwen and teammates third B.J. Neufeld, second Matt Wozniak and lead Denni Neufeld have played together since 2008, and the Manitoba skip said competing and performing well at the Brier was a necessary step toward being competitive for the Roar of the Rings Olympic Curling Trials in 2017.

"That's what we're working towards and we defined getting to a national championship and playing under those circumstances as sort of necessary experience," he said.

Overall, McEwen, who has been at his wife Dawn's side through tough competitions at the Scotties and the Olympics, said his first Brier experience exceeded his expectations.

"Just how full the building felt and how lively the crowd felt. The Scotties is an amazing event but the Brier, this has just that much more people in the stands and it just feels, it felt a little bit bigger being on the ice than in the crowd where I'd been sitting," he said.

Before going into today's bronze-medal game McEwen said he and his teammates plan to let off some steam, taking in what the Brier has to offer off ice.

"We'll probably have some fun tonight. That'll be refocusing, if anything, and we'll have some fun tonight, enjoy the Brier outside the arena — the Patch the fans, some good food around the rink — and that'll be our reset," he said.

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# Rocks & Rings celebrates one million kids

A program that has introduced kids across the country to the sport of curling crossed a significant milestone Saturday at the Tim Hortons Brier.

Owen Sharman, eight, of Orleans, Ont., is officially the one-millionth participant in the Curling Canada Rocks & Rings program, it was announced during an on-ice ceremony at TD Place.

Also, it was announced that Chathu Mahanama, 12, of Orleans, is No. 1,000,001, getting the program on its way to two million participants.

Rocks & Rings was launched in 2009 by Rock Solid Productions, and since then it

has been in more than 6,800 schools across Canada, using curling equipment that has been adapted to gymnasium surfaces, but closely simulates on-ice conditions, to give kids a fun and realistic introduction to the Roaring Game.

Partly supported by donations to the Curling Canada Foundation — the mandate of which is to promote curling and an active life to Canadian youngsters — Curling Canada Rocks & Rings has been embraced by schools and children alike, and surpassing the one-million mark is another clear signal of its popularity.

“It has been a particular



**From left, Rachael Wilson (Director, Fund Development for Curling Canada), Chathu Mahanama, 12, of Orleans, Ont., Abbie Darnley (Program Director, Curling Canada Rocks & Rings), Owen Sharman, eight, of Orleans, Ont., and Chad McMullan (President, Rock Solid Productions) take part in Saturday’s ceremony to honour the one-millionth participant in Curling Canada Rocks & Rings.**

delight to watch the steady growth of Curling Canada Rocks & Rings, and I know that Curling Canada and Rock Solid Productions take a great deal of pride out of today’s celebration of one million

kids,” said Hugh Avery, Chair of Curling Canada’s Board of Governors. “Curling Canada Rocks & Rings has taken our sport to new levels in terms of encouraging young people to not only give curling a try, but

also to be active and healthy. We can’t wait to announce our two millionth participant.”

For more information on Curling Canada Rocks & Rings, or to book the program for a school, go to [rocksandrings.com/](http://rocksandrings.com/)

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## Low key

FROM PAGE 8

They're the most experienced team in the playoffs and have been through various scenarios at the Brier over the years. Gallant is in his fourth Brier, Walker his five, Nichols his 10th and Gushue, still seeking his first championship, in his 13th.

"We've been through this before," agreed Nichols, who is in his 10th Brier. "A day off in a week-long event like this, which has been such a grind, is not a bad thing for us."

Last year they played on the Saturday after losing to Jacobs in the Page 1-2 game 7-5. Team Canada scored three in the 10th to beat Gushue in the semifinal. Then they lost the bronze medal game 7-5 to Steve Laycock of Saskatchewan who stole two in the 11th end.

"Yeah, we played last year in the (semifinal) game and it didn't go so well, so I guess I have to say we prefer having the day off and being in the final," said Gallant. "If you knew you were going to win the semifinal maybe it would be good to play, just to keep playing. But I think we've played enough games on the ice that we're pretty comfortable with it."

Speaking before Saturday evening's semifinal game, Gallant and Nichols agreed no matter who they play in the final, it will be a tight game that will likely come down to the final stone, just as it did in 1-2 game.

"I have no doubt it'll be the same thing (Sunday) night," said Nichols.

"Definitely the way it is," offered Gallant. "We're kind of used to that. You have to stay patient because you know it will be a tight



**A day off in a week-long event like this, which has been such a grind, is not a bad thing for us.**

— Mark Nichols

game. Patience is really key.

"It's amazing how close things have been. We ended up 9-2, but we probably had five or six games that came down to the final shot. You look at some really, really good teams that ended up with losing records this week, just shows how close everything was. Little mistake here or there, little inconsistency and you're not going to win the game."

There will be moments in the final when both teams will have their chances, continued Gallant, either because of a great shot or a mistake.

"There's going to be a few misses out there and whoever takes advantage of the misses will probably win the game," he said. "Key will be to play well, if we get an opportunity take advantage of it and try not to give them too many opportunities."

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Russ and the Howard kids would take cans of salmon from mom's larder and use them for curling stones, sliding them across the kitchen floor.

2. A deli sandwich named in honor of Marc Kennedy would be called the Southpaw Sub and it would feature a heaping helping of Angus beef, topped with a bit of honey dijon sauce, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, green peppers and onions. Yum, yum.

3. True. John Morris was one of the bachelor hunks in a 2010 Valentine's



Day special on ET Canada.

4. Those words of wisdom came from Earle Morris, who has coached the Rachel Homan and Jennifer Jones teams.

5. Manitoba second Matt Wozniak's dream jock job is to be a starting pitcher in Major League Baseball.



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