

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 • An Official Publication of the World Financial Group Continental Cup.

WELCOME TO ANOTHER GRAND OPENING



Ask the athletes and they will tell you the unique attributes of curling in Vegas begin to kick in more than twelve hours before they throw their first rocks. What started as a simple idea has become a tradition that is now a very big part of the brand that has become Las Vegas Rocks!

It's called The GRAND MARCH, and this year's edition takes off from the Orleans Hotel and Casino tonight at 7:30 pm sharp. "For fans, this has become a special part of the total Las Vegas experience", says Jon Killoran, event manager and CEO of the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition. "They show up in their favorite cheering gear, with their cowbells and their signs, ready to party right from the get-go".

The Hall of Honor, which connects the casino to the arena – and is adorned with photos of all teams – becomes the rallying point, as fans line both sides of the walkway to welcome the athletes and officials, making their way to the arena for the Opening Ceremonies.

Once all the teams have come through, the fans fall in behind and become a part of the official entourage on its way to the inspiring Orleans Arena. Opening Ceremonies commence at 8 pm. Fans who want to be at the head of the welcoming line should plan to gather in the casino – near TGIF – no later than 7:15.

NOT ONE PATCH, BUT TWO!



CURLING OASIS in the afternoon. Following each morning draw, the Patch will be one big pool party, located in the sprawling Orleans Hotel and Casino pool area*. **#WeatherPermitting 😊*



HOUSE PARTY at night. Following the afternoon and evening draws, all the excitement will be headquartered in the Mardi Gras Ballroom, on the second floor of the casino.

There will be four days of incredible shot-making this week at the Orleans Arena.

But we are looking for the best...

WFG **FAN SHOTS**

SEND US YOUR
SELFIES!

Complete details on page 3



Today at the Cup

Wednesday, January 16th

- 7:30 pm Grand March
 - Orleans Hotel & Casino
- 8:00 pm Opening Ceremonies
 - Orleans Arena

Welcome
to America's home of live curling.
Thank you curling fans for making us look and feel so good!



The World's Curling Oasis



The ORLEANS

Orleans ARENA

Event Schedule

Wednesday, January 16th

7:30 pm Grand March

- Orleans Hotel & Casino

8:00 pm Opening Night Ceremonies

- Orleans Arena

Day One – Thursday, January 17th

8:30 am Draw #1 Mixed Doubles

- 11:30 am The Patch is open
- Outdoor Pool Area

1:30 pm Draw #2 Mixed Doubles

- 3:30 pm The Patch is open
- Mardi Gras Ballroom

4:00 pm Up Close and Personal

- Men's Skips, The Patch
Mardi Gras Ballroom

6:30 pm Draw #3 Women's Team Competition

- 9:00 pm Steelheart performance
Orleans Showroom - free

9:00 pm The Patch is open

- Mardi Gras Ballroom

Day Two – Friday, January 18th

8:30 am Draw #4 Mixed Doubles

- 11:30 am The Patch is open
- Outdoor Pool Area

1:30 pm Draw #5 Mixed Doubles

- 3:30 pm The Patch is open
- Mardi Gras Ballroom

4:00 pm Up Close and Personal

- Women's Skips, The Patch
Mardi Gras Ballroom

6:30 pm Draw #6 Men's Team Competition

- 9:00 pm Steelheart performance
Orleans Showroom - free

9:00 pm The Patch is open

- Mardi Gras Ballroom

Day Three – Saturday, January 19th

8:30 am Draw #7 Women's Team Scramble

- 11:30 am The Patch is open
- Outdoor Pool Area

11:30 am Autograph/Selfie Session #1

- featuring women's teams, outdoor pool area during the Patch, Orleans Hotel and Casino

1:30 pm Draw #8 Men's Team Scramble

- 3:30 pm The Patch is open
- Mardi Gras Ballroom

4:30 pm Autograph/Selfie Session #2

- featuring men's teams, site TBA

6:30 pm Draw #9 Mixed Team Scramble

- 9:00 pm Winger performance
Orleans Showroom (separate ticket required)

9:00 pm The Patch is open

- Mardi Gras Ballroom

Day Four – Sunday, January 20th

11:00am Draw #10 Skins Game

- 1:30 pm The Patch is open
- Outdoor Pool Area

4:00 pm Draw #11 Skins Game

- 6:30 pm Closing Ceremonies, Orleans Arena

7:00 pm The Patch is open

- Mardi Gras Ballroom



*Orleans Arena Doors open 1 hour prior to each draw.

WFG FAN SHOTS

SEND US YOUR SELFIES!

Whether you are at the Arena, the Pool, the Patch, the Strip, the golf course, the canyons or where ever your adventures take you... please send us your selfies and photos - the more fun, the better - for your chance to **win a \$250 dining certificate from the Orleans Hotel and Casino, plus other great prizes.** A winner will be announced each draw.

Ensure your post or account is set to "Public" during the event. (We can't see it otherwise). If you would like to receive direct notification that you won, make sure you "follow" or "like" the Las Vegas Curling Rocks account. Winners will be announced at the end of each draw, included in the #WFGFanShots album on Facebook and published the next day in the Morning Cup. Contest begins at 12:01 am January 16.

Post your entries on our social media platforms:



@LVCurlingRocks



@VegasCurlingRocks



AND use the hashtag #WFGFanShots.

Complete contest rules and prize details available at www.LasVegasCurling.rocks



Coach **Fredrik Lindberg** Assistant Coach **Christoffer Svae** Captain **David Murdoch**

From Left:
Sofia Mabergs
 Lead
Anna Hasselborg
 Skip
Sara McManus
 Third
Agnes Knochenhauer
 Second



Team **Hasselborg**

From Left:
Valentin Tanner
 Lead
Peter de Cruz
 (throws second)
 Skip
Benoît Schwarz
 (throws fourth)
 Third
Sven Michel
 (throws third)
 Second



Team **de Cruz**

From Left:
Lauren Gray
 Lead
Vicki Chalmers
 Second
Jennifer Dodds
 Third
Eve Muirhead
 Skip



Team **Muirhead**

From Left:
Christoffer Sundgren
 Lead
Niklas Edin
 Skip
Oskar Eriksson
 Third
Rasmus Wranå
 Second



Team **Edin**

From Left:
Silvana Tirinzoni
 (throws third)
 Skip
Alina Pätz
 (throws fourth)
 Third
Esther Neuwand
 Second
Melanie Barbezat
 Lead



Team **Tirinzoni**

From Left:
Hammy McMillan Jr.
 From Left:
Bruce Mouat
 From Left:
Grant Hardie
 From Left:
Bobby Lammie
 From Left:



Team **Mouat**



GET YOUR TRAVEL MONEY HERE!

Over the years, that's the way it's been for a lot of lucky people. Buy a 50/50 raffle ticket and win a pot that is big enough to pay for a big chunk of your fun! There's a winner every draw and tickets are available at the 50/50 Raffle ticket station on the main concourse, near the box office. Or, buy them from one of our mobile ticket sellers.



Captain **Pete Fenson** Assistant Coach **Jill Officer** Coach **Jeff Stoughton**



Team **Gushue**

From Left:
Brad Gushue
Skip
Mark Nichols
Third
Brett Gallant
Second
Geoff Walker
Lead



Team **Homan**

From Left:
Lisa Weagle
Lead
Rachel Homan
Skip
Emma Miskew
Third
Joanne Courtney
Second



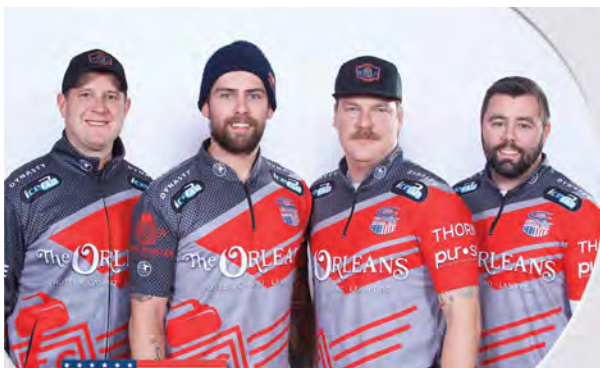
Team **Koe**

From Left:
Ben Hebert
From Left:
Kevin Koe
Skip
B.J. Neufeld
Third
Colton Flasch
Lead



Team **Jones**

From Left:
Jennifer Jones
Skip
Kaitlyn Lawes
Third
Jocelyn Peterman
Second
Dawn McEwen
Lead



Team **Shuster**

From Left:
John Shuster
Skip
Chris Plys
Third
Matt Hamilton
Second
John Landsteiner
Lead



Team **Sinclair**

From Left:
Jamie Sinclair
Skip
Sarah Anderson
Third
Taylor Anderson
Second
Monica Walker
Lead



Free Wi-Fi

Available in the Orleans Arena
BOYD_GUEST-WIFI

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@LVCurlingRocks



@VegasCurlingRocks

Join the conversation using Hashtag: **#RockingVegas**

LET'S BE SOCIAL!

Colin the Shots

By Colin Kelly



OKAY VEGAS, WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK?

Back in January 2014, a new event arrived in Las Vegas that very few people around these parts were familiar with: the World Financial Group Continental Cup. Yes, the winter sport of curling – and at the highest level, no less – was coming to the desert, of all places.

At first blush, it seemed like a mismatch. But thousands upon thousands of curling fans traveled to Vegas for that inaugural international curling event at Orleans Arena. It was such a smash success that the Continental Cup returned in 2016 and 2017, and last year, the World Men's Curling Championship came to town.

Now, the Continental Cup is back. And while that surely means a whole lot of travelers will be here, as well – particularly our maple syrup-loving Canadian friends – it also means locals get another dose of an event and a sport they're growing to love. And Las Vegans are excited about it.

"I love it. I think it's awesome," said local sports columnist Ron Kantowski, who has covered every event under the sun in his three decades in the desert. "Some call it chess on ice. I call it Canadian bowling, because it just seems like a sport you can do while you're drinking a beer, like bowling. And that's not to denigrate it at all. I think it's really cool."

Boyd Gaming and Orleans Arena took a leap of faith on curling in 2013, securing the 2014 Continental Cup, and that faith was rewarded with sellout crowds at sessions throughout the four-day tournament. Rex Berman, the arena's executive director, echoed Kantowski's enthusiasm and pointed to the event's unique format – borrowed a bit from the sport of golf.

"The Continental Cup is tremendously exciting because it's way more than just an average competition," Berman said. "Team World competes against Team North America in a Ryder Cup-style format. Whoever has the most points at the end of the final draws takes home the cup. The event provides the opportunity for teams to experiment with new game variations that could be seen at future Olympic Games, like mixed doubles, for example."

Berman also pointed to curling in general and the Continental Cup in specific as being very fan- and family-friendly. Your pocketbook isn't going to burst from the cost of tickets for this event. Berman and event organizers have gone to great lengths to make the Continental Cup as accessible as possible, particularly for locals.

"The event is family-friendly and connects the community to an Olympic-level sport that people may not otherwise have the opportunity to see live," Berman said. "Family Fun Zone

ticket packages are available at the Orleans Arena, which allow families to get close to the action at a reduced ticket price."

Efforts such as that have certainly helped the Continental Cup gain a following here in the Las Vegas Valley. For evidence of that, look no further than a drawing that was held for tickets to take in Saturday's draws. The Las Vegas Review-Journal sponsored a contest to give away family four-packs of tickets to 10 winners.

The response to the contest, which ended last week, was overwhelming, according to Cass Behrens, who as a multimedia account executive at the Review-Journal oversees several such promotions.

"What a great sport.
Drinking beer, having a
doughnut and watching
curling at 9 a.m!"

"We had 1,100 entries, which is pretty significant for our contests," Behrens said. "There was a ton of engagement, which is great to see. To my surprise, people were very, very excited."

Lisa Motley, director of sports marketing and special events for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, couldn't wait to get elite-level curling back in Las Vegas for the fifth time in the last six years. Sure, everybody's talking about the Vegas Golden Knights and the future arrival of the NFL's Raiders, but this event is now an important staple on the LVCVA's calendar.

"With a growing roster of A-list games and activities, Las Vegas has quickly transformed into the ultimate sports haven, and we are once again thrilled to add the Continental Cup to that lineup," Motley said. "Curling events have experienced great success here, so it's really no surprise Las Vegas continues to be the only U.S. city to host the Continental Cup."

Motley certainly appreciates the opportunity this event provides for locals to get a much closer experience with an Olympic sport. At

the same time, it's her job to attract people to Vegas from all over the globe, and this event certainly does that, particularly with the flood from north of the border.

"Canada is our No. 1 source of international visitors, with more than 1.4 million traveling here every year," Motley said. "This event provides yet another great opportunity to travel to sunny Las Vegas during the cold winter and witness a top-notch sporting event."

Behrens pointed out that even if you have limited or no knowledge of curling, you'll find the Continental Cup to be quite engaging. His first experience with the sport came last year at the World Men's Curling Championships, which he said was very well-received in the community.

Part of that, rightly so, was because American John Shuster and his team were fresh off a surprise gold-medal victory at the Olympics. But the contest response shows that the enthusiasm for curling in Vegas surely hasn't waned and in fact is growing.

"It seems like there's just as much excitement this year, and I thought the event last year was highly successful," Behrens said. "Last year was the first time I ever attended a curling event. It was highly entertaining and interesting. It's completely different being there in person, to see how the event is put on, with three matches going at the same time. And the fans really get into it. It's a really fun environment."

Kantowski, who will take in his second Continental Cup and was at the World Championships last year, can certainly vouch for that. He fondly – and hysterically – recalled his first experience with live curling, in 2017.

"The first Continental Cup I went to, the matches started at an ungodly hour, like 9 a.m., and the place was packed and the fans were totally stoked," Kantowski said. "It looked like Gonzaga vs. Brigham Young in the West Coast Conference basketball tournament. You've got fans with a Molson in one hand and a Tim Horton's doughnut in the other hand. I thought, 'What a great sport. Drinking beer, having a doughnut and watching curling at 9 a.m.'"

It's a spectacle that you've got to see to believe, and to fully enjoy. If you immerse yourself in it, even as a novice fan, you're bound to have a hellacious time this weekend at Orleans Arena.

"If you've never seen it in person, you need to. You really get into it. It's much better in person than on TV," Kantowski said, noting he's so hooked that he'd be tempted to pull up stakes from Vegas – for a few cold days anyway – to see more of it. "Send me to Winnipeg!"

America's Largest Curling Store



Visit us outside the arena between draws!
BroomsUp.com
 Asham BalancePlus Goldline Olson



FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE
 Operating daily
9:00am - 12:30am

Our shuttle bus picks up approximately every 45 minutes

This service is available between The Orleans Hotel and Casino, its sister property the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, and the High Roller Ferris Wheel at the Linq on the Las Vegas Strip. All shuttles will arrive and depart from The Orleans Hotel and Casino's designated shuttle stop on the Tropicana Avenue side (south entrance) of the property, approximately every 30 to 45 minutes. Operating hours are from 9:00 am to 12:30 am daily. The last shuttle will leave the strip at 12:30 am. Hotel guests will receive priority seating on all shuttles.

Service between



The **MORNING cup**

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