

Saturday, January 19, 2019 • An Official Publication of the World Financial Group Continental Cup.

THERE WERE SOME ROOKIES IN THE HOUSE!

Like Canada geese migrating for the winter, there's no question that Canadian fans pack the stands when the World Financial Group Continental Cup comes to Las Vegas. You can't take a step without tripping over a maple-leaf-donning veteran of curling fanaticism.

But don't think the locals overlook this event, which is here at Orleans Arena for the fourth time.

There were some rookies in the house Friday night, youngsters and adults alike, from here in town and from points beyond. And they were soaking it up just as much as all the longtime fans racking up those frequent-flyer miles.

Scott McGhie and his family – wife Emily, 11-year-old son Kagen and brand new baby boy Colton – all got their first taste of live curling, taking advantage of the event's Family Four Pack. It sounds like it won't be their last curling venture.

"We like to try something new," McGhie said. "What's nice about this is that it's new and fresh and exciting. It gives us an opportunity to really appreciate the sport. The intensity and focus that the players put into it is super cool to watch."

Emily was probably happy that Colton was keeping pretty calm among the raucous curling fans throughout the arena. That allowed her to gain a little more insight into this new endeavor.

"It's interesting, because at first, I was like, 'I'm not exactly sure how this is gonna work out,'" Emily said. "But it's really interesting. I've seen it a little on TV. It's totally more interesting in person."

While three matches unfolded before him, Kagen tried to ascertain strategy and scoring. He quickly figured out what he'd like to do, if he were on the ice.

"That's easy. I'd like to do what they're doing when they release the stone," he said. After being told that the person in that role is the skip, he replied: "Well, then I'd like to be the skip!"

The McGhie family taking in the action was just another sign of the growth of this event and curling in general here in Las Vegas. That's always been a goal of event organizers.

"We've been really pleased with our daily walk-up sales," Continental Cup marketing consultant Rod Palson said. "It's obvious the local interest is growing."

And as McGhie noted, there's nothing quite like being in the arena for elite-level curling.

"It's a lot of fun once you get it," he said. "It has a way better impact live. I wish I would've come out sooner!"



**We are looking
for the best...**

**WFG FAN
SHOTS**

Complete details on page 3

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.

SEND US YOUR SELFIES!

Today at the Cup

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, during the Patch, outdoor pool area
- 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
- 9:00 pm** The Patch is open
 - Mardi Gras Ballroom

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

TEAM WORLD CONTINUES TO HOLD THE UPPER HAND

By Dave Komosky

The 2019 World Financial Group Continental Cup, presented by Boyd Gaming, is much like a heavyweight fight.

Teams throw some early jabs to feel out their opponent, maybe soften them up a bit, and then wait to deliver the knockout punch.

And that knockout blow will surely come Sunday when Team North America and Team World slug it out in the Skins matchups, worth the majority of points in this four-day competition between the best curling teams in the world.

After two days of play, Team World has bloodied the nose of Team North America, mostly on the basis of one-point wins along the way.

Team World got a few extra jabs in Friday evening in draw six at the Orleans Arena, winning two of three men's competition games, and splitting the other, to grab a 13.5-4.5 points lead.

That seems life a safe lead, but the big hitting is yet to come, and everybody knows it. The North Americans still trail by plenty but the format works in their favour. They may have lost the war so far, but can still win the battle because the

big-point matches are coming up. The big payoff comes in the Skins format on closing Sunday when 30 points are up for grabs in six games, so the North Americans are very much alive and kicking.

"For sure Sunday," said Swiss skip Peter de Cruz, who added another point to the Team World total, dispatching Team North America's Kevin Koe and his Calgary outfit 8-4 in a rather one-sided affair in the men's team competition.

"If you would have told us we would have had this kind of lead at the beginning of the week, we would have taken it," said de Cruz, who throws second stones but skips the team. "We know there are a lot of points in the final day and we know how good these teams are. But I'd rather be in our shoes than theirs."

It's been a dream start for Team World, but not totally surprising considering its talent, effort and ability to ready tricky ice so far this week. Consider that Team World's roster consists of Olympic women's gold-medal champion Anna Hasselborg and world men's champion Niklas Edin, both from Sweden.

Team North America is loaded with talent, too, but so far have been outgunned.



Continued on Page 5

DRAW 4

Michaelray320 • Follow
Park MGM
Stepping away from the curling action tonight to see @ladygaga
#wfgfanshots #PokerFace #vegascurlingrocks

DRAW 5

Nicole Berard is with Carol Jones and 3 others.
4 hrs
Waiting for Draw 5, Googling: "HOW TO WIN A SELFIE CONTEST" #WFGFanShots

DRAW 6

Tracy Johnstone
pool patch
#WFGFanShots @LVCurlingRocks

Yesterday's winners

SEND US YOUR SELFIES!

Post your entries on our social media platforms:

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.



@LVCurlingRocks @VegasCurlingRocks
AND

use the hashtag #WFGFanShots.

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

ALL IN THE CURLING FAMILY

Colin the Shots

By Colin Kelly



I remember first meeting Michelle Zintschenko like it was yesterday. I mean, if yesterday were 2014. Because that's when I actually first met Zintschenko.

It was at the World Financial Group Continental Cup right here at Orleans Arena, the first time the event was held in Las Vegas. Zintschenko was among those volunteering to work the event, but her story was a bit different than most of the volunteers. She'd come all the way from Melbourne, Australia, to be a part of the Continental Cup.

Since then, Zintschenko has been back for three more Continental Cups – this year's included, of course – and last year's World Men's Curling Championships. So she's made it up from Down Under all five times curling has graced the Orleans Arena ice.

As she was crossing the globe, I caught up to her by phone when she was in New York City. I reminded her that it's summer Down Under, and that Melbourne is rocking right now as host of the Australian Open, the first major tennis tournament of the year. So why would she leave all that?

"I just don't like hot weather or tennis," Zintschenko said.

Indeed, curling is more her thing. And Vegas in the winter – which isn't hot, but surely isn't cold by most folks' standards – is a fine place to be for Zintschenko, who prefers to go by her nickname, Zinny. But since she's from Australia, and since I'm a fan of the Aussie rock band Icehouse, and because the goal of curling is to get the stone into the ice house, I'm going to call her Icehouse from here on out.

Icehouse and many of her fellow volunteers can't wait to get back to Vegas for curling. That's because many in this group – numbering more than 100 in total – have developed quite a kinship over the past five years.

"It's the volunteer family," said Randy Sabbagh, who hails from Austin, Texas, and has also worked all five of Vegas' elite curling events. "Because so many of us have been at so many of these, we've all become a family. The first year, everybody was polite to each other. And then we got relaxed, and it was so much more fun. The ribald comments were flying fast and furious. All the crazy curling stories.

"It's such a fun family. Everybody loves each other."

Vonda Hoffer is another regular Vegas volunteer, traveling from her home in Prince George, British Columbia. Hoffer is at her third Continental Cup, and she was at the World Men's tournament last year, too. Much like Icehouse and Sabbagh, Hoffer steered right to the same theme in explaining why she's a repeat volunteer worker.

"These four years, it's the same group of people. We're like a family. It's a family reunion every time we get back together," Hoffer said.



Michelle Zintschenko
Melbourne, Australia



Randy Sabbagh
Austin, Texas



Vonda Hoffer
Prince George, British Columbia



Thomas Pautsch
Dusseldorf, Germany

"It's a more relaxed and more fun setting in Vegas. You've got the format of the Continental Cup in itself, which is less formal. And where else other than Vegas are you gonna have Marilyn Monroe and Elvis and Thunder from Down Under?"

(To which I wonder, does Icehouse know any of those Thunder from Down Under gents?)

"All of that just creates that fun vibe," Hoffer continued. "We truly have formed a unique group."

Thomas Pautsch is among that group, as well, and one of its more traveled members, hailing from Dusseldorf, Germany. He's also volunteered at all five Las Vegas events, and in fact, the 2014 Continental Cup marked his first time in Vegas. For that matter, it was his first time in the United States.

Before jumping into that whole family aspect again, Pautsch had some thoughts on what makes Las Vegas different from all the other events at which he's volunteered. That would number more than 20 in all, including the 2014 Sochi Olympics and numerous events across Europe and Canada.

"First of all, there is no snow. Usually, there's snow where there's curling," Pautsch said. "I've never seen a curling player in shorts. So that's a first, seeing that in Las Vegas."

OK, now we'll let Pautsch echo the sentiments of Icehouse, Sabbagh and Hoffer.

"All the volunteers who are here really want to be here," Pautsch said. "The volunteer crowd is really something special, a big reason why a lot of them have been to all the Continental Cups in Las Vegas. Nowhere else at any tournament have I seen that. I've only seen that here. Las Vegas is cool, the Continental Cup is cool and something everybody should see. But for us, it's basically about reuniting with all the other volunteers."

It's gotten to the point where, much like a family reunion, volunteers are saddened when one of their own can't make it back to Vegas.

"We're all Facebook friends," Icehouse said. "A couple weeks ago, one of them said they were not gonna make it. And it was like, 'Oh, sad face!'"

But the large majority finds their way back to Vegas each time the Continental Cup returns. So those sad-face emojis are few and far between.

"It's the same crew. You just can't wait to hug them and be around them again," Icehouse said.

Icehouse, the band, has a song called "Street Café," that I'd say speaks to this group's efforts to reunite, year after year.

"And no matter where the road may take you,

Every time, it brings you back to the street café.

It's where you have to be. ...



"No matter where the road may take you,

We'll meet again someday.



You know we'll meet someday,
Someday at the street café."

Point Tracker



Thursday, January 17



Draw		 Points	
1	Mixed Doubles Competition (3 points)	0	3
2	Mixed Doubles Competition (3 points)	0	3
3	Women's Team Competition (3 points)	0	3



Friday, January 18

Draw		 Points	
4	Mixed Doubles Competition (3 points)	1	2
5	Mixed Doubles Competition (3 points)	3	0
6	Men's Team Competition (3 points)	0.5	2.5

Saturday, January 19

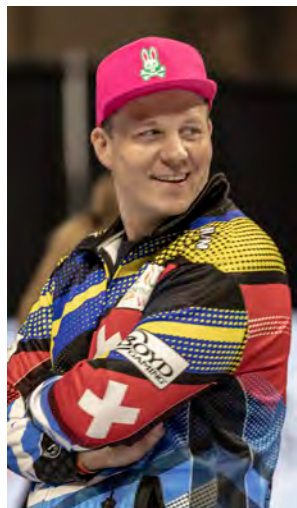
Draw	Sheet	Women's Team Scramble (3 points)	 Points	
7	A	Jones - S. Anderson - Peterman - M. Walker Muirhead - Paetz - Chalmers - Barbezat	1	
7	B	Homan - Lawes - Courtney - Mcewen Hasselborg - Dodds - Knochenhauer - Gray	1	
7	C	Sinclair - Miskew - T. Anderson - Weagle Tirinzoni - Mcmanus - Neuenschwander - Mabergs	1	

Draw	Sheet	Men's Team Scramble (3 points)	 Points	
8	A	Koe - Plys - Gallant - Hebert Mouat - Michel - Lammie - Tanner	1	
8	B	Gushue - Neufeld - Hamilton - G. Walker Edin - Hardie - Wrana - Mcmillan	1	
8	C	Shuster - Nichols - Flasch - Landsteiner Schwarz - Eriksson - de Cruz - Sundgren	1	

Draw	Sheet	Mixed Team Scramble (6 points)	 Points	
9	A	Gushue - Lawes - Gallant - Mcewen Mouat - Dodds - Lammie - Gray	2	
9	B	Homan - Neufeld - Courtney - Hebert Hasselborg - Eriksson - Knochenhauer - Sundgren	2	
9	C	Shuster - Sinclair - Hamilton - M. Walker Schwarz - Paetz - de Cruz - Barbezat	2	

Sunday, January 20

Draw	10	Skins	15
Draw	11	Skins	15



UPPER HAND

Continued from Page 3

"This is the best (Continental Cup) lineup we've ever had," said Edin, who skipped his Team World outfit to a 7-4 victory over Team North America's John Shuster Friday night. "It's a good thing for us that we have only three countries represented so we can speak the same language in a lot of the games. It just makes it a lot closer because that's what they have every year. They know each other and speak the same language. For us that's always been a struggle, dealing with the time change. It shows now how big a difference that is."

The best Team North America could muster on the evening draw was a half point when Brad Gushue of St. John's, NL, was able to salvage a 4-4 draw with Scottish skip Bruce Mouat's Team World foursome.

Team North America scored some points earlier in the day, sweeping the afternoon session of mixed doubles to climb back into contention after a brutal start to the event, losing 11 of the first 12 points available, including two of three mixed doubles matches in the morning. But they were stopped in their tracks in the evening, making the final two days a tightrope walk.

And they certainly can't afford to stumble on Saturday. New this year are the Team Scramble and Mixed Team Play events, which put an emphasis on how curlers can perform with teammates they'd regularly play as opponents.



Kelly's
By Colin Kelly **Heroes**



Double CURLING'S GOLD STANDARD

This weekend at Orleans Arena, there's more talent than you can shake a curling broom at. You've got Olympic champions, world champions, national champions, a veritable curling cornucopia of success.

But there's only one curler in the house with two Olympic gold medals: Canada's Kaitlyn Lawes.

Not that you'd ever know that from Lawes' demeanor. She's humble, self-deprecating and as grateful as you could imagine for all the curling accolades that have come her way. The 30-year-old Lawes recognizes that without the incredible curling community she grew up in – in Winnipeg, Manitoba – attaining such success would've been much more difficult.



"I was very lucky in Winnipeg that, when I was a kid, within 15 minutes of my house, there were 20 curling clubs," Lawes said. "We had easy access to ice. My parents curled, and they got my brother and I into the sport at an early age."

In fact, one of Lawes' first curling recollections was of her, as a 4-year-old, competing in a Family Fun Bonspiel. It was certainly fun for her family, as Lawes, brother Kevin and parents Cheryl and Keith won the event.

"I had success at an early age, and that allowed me to see that with a lot of hard work, I could grow within the sport," Lawes said. "Winnipeg really gets behind its athletes. The fans have

been so supportive of our team in Manitoba and at international events."

Lawes has always understood the importance of paying forward all that support, something she's made a point of doing since her junior curling days. Long before she first struck gold with the Canadian women's team at the 2014 Sochi Games, she was deep into community curling outreach.

"I've taught curling since I was 16 years old," Lawes said, noting her work to grow the game extends around the globe. "Every summer for the past 12 years, I've taught at curling camps across Canada and with the World Curling Federation. I've gone around the world, teaching curling to new communities – Japan, Estonia, Mexico."

In that sense, Lawes is not only bringing curling to locales previously unfamiliar with the sport, but also serving as an ambassador for the sport.

"In a sense, yes. Curling has given me so much, so I've always wanted to give back," she said. "Whether recreationally or competitively, I want to help people give it a try."

And the people she helps, especially those at her home club of St. Vital Curling, reciprocate with unwavering support for the local curler turned international star. Along with the 2014 Olympic gold that Lawes won playing third on Jennifer Jones' team, Lawes teamed up with John Morris to win the mixed doubles gold at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games.

The fine folks at St. Vital responded in kind.

"They painted two beautiful murals on the building. You can see our faces from the highway," Lawes said with a laugh. "They're so supportive of our team, and I think our success has helped them grow the sport at the club level. People go to check it out. It's a big draw for the community."

Lawes said she enjoys helping players of all ages learn to curl, but gets the most satisfaction out of helping youngsters. She fondly recalled her teenage days as a camper at the Trillium Curling Camp, and she's returned to Trillium often to coach up the future of Canadian curling.



"What's special about that is that a lot of the kids from that camp go on to junior nationals for their province. Those are probably my proudest moments as a coach," Lawes said. "It's special. It's neat to see kids so passionate about a sport that I love, as well."

And again, although Lawes is not a showoff by any stretch, it doesn't hurt her street cred to have those two Olympic gold medals dangling around her neck, whether at a prestigious camp or just popping into a local curling club.

"It's fun to see their reaction, especially if I bring the medals by," Lawes said. "I think people would rather see the medals than me, but it's all part of it. It's fun to meet them and hear their stories. It's just incredibly important for me to give back. I think curling is unique in that sense."



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.

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**

Editor: **Rod Palson**
 Art Director: **Dave Ambroz**
 Feature Writer: **Colin Kelly**
 Contributing Writers: **Dave Komosky, Gerry Geurts**
 Photographer: **Bob Weder**



WE PROVIDE THE ARENA. BUT YOU CALL THE SHOTS.
 START YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE AT TRAVELNEVADA.COM/CURLING

TRAVELNEVADA



swept away HAPPENS HERE.

Slide into the unexpected. Las Vegas is a proud partner of the 2019 WFG Continental Cup of Curling.



VisitLasVegas.com