



Photo by Melissa Murray

Skip Kesa Van Osch, 20, yells at her teammates to sweep during their game against Alberta at the Strathcona Paper Centre in Napanee on Feb. 4. The girls lost to Alberta in a close match, 9-8. The game was a part of the Junior Curling Championship, which will be held until Feb. 12.

Four teams big winners at junior curling nationals

Tournament winner will represent Canada at World Juniors in Östersund Sweden

By Melissa Murray

Four teams made a clean sweep at the Canadian junior curling championship in Napanee, after the first weekend of play.

Each day, more than 20 games are played to move the 13 men's and women's teams through the tournament.

The women's Alberta team beat out British Columbia and Saskatchewan on Saturday and Prince Edward Island and Ontario on Sunday.

On the men's side, Alberta, Quebec and Northern Ontario, all had a perfect record of 4-0.

But by Tuesday, only two teams were still undefeated, becoming quick favourites for spectators at the competition, said Stephen Paul chair of the host committee.

"The Alberta teams have been playing extremely well, with a 6-0 streak for both the men's and women's teams," said Paul.

And the crowds have responded.

"The crowds have been exuberant. The

teams brought friends and family from all across Canada and they've brought their flags and cowbells to all the games," said Paul.

Alberta skip Brendan Bottcher, 20, and two of his teammates are familiar with the championship. Both lead Bryce Bucholz, 19, and second Landon Bucholz, 19, curled with Bottcher in 2010. Between them and their teammate Evan Asmusen, they have logged 42 years of playing experience.

Their counterpart, the women's team, played in the 2011 Canadian Winter Games and won silver. They too, have played the game for most of their lives, logging 45 years of curling between each teammate.

The Alberta women's team squeaked by British Columbia during their first match when British Columbia skip, Kesa Van Osch, narrowly missed the last shot in the 10th end, to give Alberta the win 9-8.

Not every team has as much experience as the Alberta teams. The men's and women's Newfoundland leads, Brendan Murphy and Nicole Noseworthy, have only been curling for one year and the men's Prince Edward Island team has an average career of just over four years.

Both Ontario teams have the most ex-

perience on the men's side. Northern Ontario has 47 years of experience, while the Ontario team has 51 years.

The girls beat out the boys in experience, though, with Prince Edward Island's team logging 55 years of experience between the four 20-year-old girls.

Some players are also making and breaking appearance records.

Will Mahoney, Mitch Young and Thomas Scoffin of the Yukon will make this tournament their sixth appearance at the Canadian Juniors, tying them with three other people. David Aho of the Northwest Territories switched to the Yukon team after six appearances in the tournament. He now has the most appearances of any player at a Canadian junior championship with seven appearances.

Chelsea Duncan and Linea Eby of the Yukon are tied with each other for the most appearances at the junior championship each competing six times.

Last year, Regina's Saskatchewan went 13-0, but this year their Saskatoon club is representing Saskatchewan and they are off to a rocky start with two wins and two losses.

More round-robin games will be played throughout the week.

The women's final game will be held on

Undefeated Winners

Undefeated Records Mens:

1952- Saskatchewan 9-0
1962- Saskatchewan 10-0
1963- Alberta 10-0
1986- Manitoba 12-0
2011- Saskatchewan 13-0

Undefeated Records Womens:

1975- Saskatchewan 10-0
1978- Alberta 10-0
1989- Manitoba 11-0
2010- Ontario 13-0
The last men's back-to-back winner was Alberta in 2006 and 2007.
The last women's back-to-back winner was Manitoba in 2008 and 2009.

Saturday Feb. 11, and the men's game will be held the following day. First rocks for both games are thrown at 7 p.m. Each of the games will be televised on TSN. "We are really excited to show off the tournament and Napanee to the country during the final games," said Paul.

The winner of the tournament will represent Canada at the World Juniors at Östersund, Sweden from March 3-11.

Fancy gadgets all part of boat show offerings

By Megan Voss

The ships have sailed again at the Quinte Mall.

For the past 15 to 20 years, more than just a few boats have been anchored throughout the aisles during the mall's annual boat show.

From Jan. 30 to Feb. 5, many local businesses filled the space between stores, advertising a variety of different kinds of boats.

Steve Smart is in his eighth year at the boat show. Although the hours are long, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, he said it is worth it.

"It's a positive effect to be at the show," he said.

"We get exposure that we don't normally get."

Erin Graham is, administrative assistant for the Quinte Mall, agreed the boat show is a draw for the mall.

"It's an annual event that people look forward to," she said. "It brings in more than just regular shoppers."

"It's a different level of advertising - we try to bring in local businesses," Graham added.

Smart and his wife, Pauline, own Smart's Marina Ltd. on Mazinaw Lake, which sells several different kinds of boats, as well as providing rentals, service, cleaning, and boat storage.

Smart described the new technology out there for boats and how people have been looking for fancy gadgets as of late. They include special lighting effects such as moody lighting on the boat, lights installed under the boat to light up the water around it during the night, and illuminated cup holders.

"It's a trend that comes from the automotive industry," he said, adding that boats are usually a year behind.

However, some of the new technologies are a bit more practical. The new boats coming out are more environmentally friendly and leaner.

He also spoke about the effect of the "bad" winter this year. Many outdoor businesses use the sales they get selling winter leisure equipment to buy boats for the summer, and because of the warm weather, the sales have been down.

However, Smart said the warm winter creates more interest and that the boating season may start earlier. He hopes that he will be able to get some deals on paper and have the boats available to buyers by May.

Kyle Donnan athlete of week

By Melissa Murray

Kyle Donnan of the Loyalist Lancer's volleyball team was named OCAA athlete of the week, after setting the all-time high for career points of 911, during last Friday's game. He is also the all-time kills leader in the league.

The Loyalist Lancer's volleyball teams are up against Durham College tonight in Durham. The Lady Lancers, second in their division, are serving against the eighth place team.

The men aren't far behind the ladies, who sit fourth in their division, while Durham is just two points behind them.

The Loyalist Lancer's men's and women's basketball teams will tip off against the Cambrian Golden Shields Friday night.

Golden Hawks fighting their way back up in standings

Team bounces back with two wins in a row playing on the road this past weekend

By Dan Pearce

The Trenton Golden Hawks moved up a spot in the Canadian Junior Hockey League, or CJHL, top 20 rankings this week, to number nine.

Though it's a far cry from the first place position they held earlier in the season, the Hawks are fighting their way back up the CJHL leaderboards.

On Friday, the Hawks outshot the Lindsay Muskies 38-30 at home, but still came up short, losing 2-1.

However, on the weekend, the Hawks bounced back, winning two in a row on the road. On Saturday, they thrashed the Mississauga Chargers 8-0, outshooting them 61-25 and on Sunday, they did the same in Toronto, defeating the Toronto Junior Canadians 5-2, and outshooting them 45-26, to make it two straight wins.

This improves the Hawks record to 35/7/5 over the season, keeping them in first in the highly competitive Eastern division and second overall in Ontario.

The Cobourg Cougars (35/7/5), second in the Eastern division, are within striking distance of the Hawks, trailing



Photo by Dan Pearce

Retired Toronto Maple Leafs captain Wendel Clark autographs a jersey for Amber Hattie, eight. Clark signed autographs and dropped the puck at the Trenton Golden Hawks Ontario Junior Hockey League game against the Lindsay Muskies on Feb. 3 at the Community Gardens Arena in Trenton.

This improves the Hawks record to 35/7/5 over the season, keeping them in first in the highly competitive Eastern division and second overall in Ontario.

by just two points. The Cougars have won their last five games, including a decisive 3-0 shutout win over the third-place Wellington Dukes. The Cougars will see if they can continue their hot streak against the the Hawks on Wednesday in Trenton.

The Dukes, last year's OJHL winners, received an honourable mention in the CJHL rankings. They currently sit in third place in the Eastern division, trailing the Cougars by seven points, and are seventh in the OJHL with a 32/11/4 record. The Dukes get a chance at redemption on Friday, when they face off against Cougars.

Rounding out the Eastern division are Whitby (27/12/9), Kingston (23/21/2), Lindsay (23/23/1) and Peterborough (8/37/4), who failed to make the CJHL rankings.