Curling Cues

with CRAIG KERR

One might think things should be slowing down in local curling circles, what with us getting to the end of a bad winter, and with annual trips in full swing to places where ice only comes in glasses, but such is not the case. This has to have been one of the busiest weeks we've had yet and it will be difficult to give justice to all.

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The annual Farmers' spiel was held Wednesday with two full draws, including five local rinks, some of whom can't remember when they last held a pitchfork.

On the 9 a.m. draw, first place went to Jim King, second to Fred Archibald of Acton and third to Kurt Tamouski of Oakville.

The action in the late draw was dominated by locals or near-locals as Doug Wingrove captured top spot, Bert Stewart second and Brian Smith third. Some of us are still trying to make the farmer connection on that last one!

* * *

On Saturday last, the Seniors Spiel, consisting of one draw of two six-end and one eight-end game, was held. You can always count on age and experience to provide excellent competition and this affair was true to form.

Don Gibson, curling with Fred Childs, Jim Plumtree and Bruce Kitchen, devoured all comers to win going away. F. MacIsaac of Dixie was a distant second, followed by G. James of Humber Highland.

With three games scarcely an hour apart, you could challenge some on the junior side to match that performance and find them in worse shape than these folks.

Congratulations, by the way, to Ruby Childs who shattered the chauvinist barrier by curling on a rink with Sid Shanks, Morley Rasberry and Jack Marchment. It may be a one-time only situation as we hear Ruby showed a few people how the game is played.

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While the older set were cavorting at home, one of the last Milton OCA entries was playing out a drama at Dixie in the Divisional Playdowns of the Governor General. For those less involved in men's competitive events, this is a double team affair, won by having a higher total aggregate score than the opposing two teams. It makes for some interesting changes in strategy, jockeying for hammer and such. Unlike many OCA events, it is a sudden-death type of competition rather than double knockout.

Our rinks of Ron Rowley, Ken Armstrong, Steve Brancier and Loris Faggion, and Ken Hannon, Paul MacDougall, Perry Hodges and Craig Thomas came within one rock of walking away with the Division 9 crest.

The first two games resulted in wins over North Halton and Dixie, setting the stage for the final against Chinguacousy. In the ninth, Rowley attempted a blank to retain the crucial hammer but got a nose hit to take one. This meant that both rinks, while two up in aggregate score, were coming home without last rock. In the end, Rowley gave up a deuce, and Hannon a single. To end our role in this play. A job well done, nonetheless.

* * *

On Sunday, the partner event to this one, the Silver Tankard, was played in Acton with the same format described above. In this one, our divisional hopes rested on Jack Fraser, John McCutcheon, Fred Bell and Larry McPhail and Bob Gould, Bert Stewart, Craig Kerr and Tony Amott.

These two teams got off to a great start with an early morning win over Orangeville. The afternoon game started badly for the Fraser rink, and by the time things settled down, we had run out of rocks and ends. A possible limiting factor here was that these two teams hadn't played together before hitting divisional competition, a fact that argues for more entries in the club playdowns in future.

* * *

A number of other rinks fanned out across Ontario in the last week with varying degrees of success, a number haven't reported in to news central yet so forgive us if your results are omitted or if you've been on a quest we haven't heard about.

—The weekend of February 28, the Peddies and Hurrens won the Sterling Dixie Lee Invitational against 32 rinks from eastern Ontario. These five game wins were a vast improvement over last year's three losses. Runners-up in second event were the Combas and Barnes.

—The defending champions in the Burlington Skyway Senior Men's spiel, held last week, went down to defeat at the hands of Ron Tracey, Don Gibson, Leo Furlan, and Bill Treahy. I believe this was cause for particular satisfaction. Congrats on this trophy are in order.

—Doug Gardhouse picked up a nice win in the Sheepherders (I believe) Spiel on the weekend of March 1. That's a new country heard from and it probably won't be the last.

—Beyond that, the Zixmans and Wingroves headed out on a two-day affair in Elmira, last weekend, suitably started with a champagne breakfast. That tells you where the class of curling takes place these days. There are no results as of press time on this one—there may never be.

Hard-luck Sockets edged in playoff action

Milton novice Sockets must be wondering when their luck is going to change in playoff competition. They put on two excellent performances against Georgetown and Streetsville but lost both games by one-goal margins.

In the Preston Novice Tournament Saturday, Milton had better fortunes as they fought their way to the Consolation final and reinforced their reputation of being a good tournament team in the process.

In Georgetown Tuesday, Sockets lost a narrow 3-2 decision in their second game of the playoffs. Mike Cox scored both Milton goals with Trevor Brandt picking up an assist.

Sockets continued their playoff schedule at Memorial on Sunday against Streetsville, and began in great form as they dominated the first two periods. Defenceman Jason May and David McDuffe were outstanding as Milton repeatedly pinned Streetsville in their own zone.

With four minutes remaining in the middle frame, Cox collected a pass from Jarret Blanchard and broke into score from 12 feet. Early in the final period, Blanchard and Cox again combined to put Milton into a 2-0 lead.

Within three minutes, however, Streetsville tied things at 2-2 on solo breakaways. Sockets kept up tremendous pressure with 12 shots on goal in the period, but only seconds after Milton had had a goal disallowed, Streetsville broke in again to score the winner.

In Preston on Saturday Milton was drawn against the eventual championship winners, Markham, in their first round game, and put on an excellent team performance with goalies Peter Downs and Ryan Peddie both showing tremendous form.

Markham's early 1-goal lead did not deter Sockets as they fought back to tie the score at 1-1 in the final period when Brandt brought the puck around the Markham net and tucked in a back-hander off the goalie's pads.

The game went to sudden-death overtime but after end-to-end play, it was Markham that found the mark with 59 seconds remaining.

Sockets came into the second round game against Welland showing real spark and in spite of a first-period goal by the opponents, Milton evened the score two minutes into the middle frame when Blanchard scored directly from a face- off in the Welland zone.

Sockets took the lead early in the third when Brandt broke in from centre ice and found the top right corner from 20 feet, with assists going to Russel McLean and Jeff Morrison.

Four minutes later, Milton went further ahead as Brandt squared from the right corner to Robbie Crowe in front of goal. Crowe flicked the puck left to McLean who banged home number three from 12 feet.

Scoring statistics

MILTON INDUSTRIAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
Leading Scorers

	G	A	P	Pen.
Eric Ellison, RE	26	16	42	18
Buddy Thomas, JBS	21	14	35	6
Peter Rota, CD	11	16	27	28
Richard Murray, RE	16	10	26	38
Guy McGinnis, LP	9	16	25	24
Larry Scott, RE	10	14	24	4
Roger Delnin, CD	7	16	23	4
John Dent, LP	14	8	22	4
John Volpe, MM	12	10	22	7
Randy Coulson, JBS	11	11	22	18
Don Habkirk, JBS	8	13	21	20
Peter McCuaig, RE	8	11	19	4
Pat Haggart, CD	7	12	19	9
Richard Shannon, LP	7	11	18	4
Lou D'Arzio, LP	11	6	17	16
Harry Rowland, SL	8	9	17	14
Brent Murray, RE	2	15	17	36
Ian Wanless, SL	8	8	16	9
Jay Norland, JBS	7	9	16	12
Les Wilson, RE	7	8	15	16
Dave Arbic, JBS	4	11	15	4
Steve Wilson, CD	10	4	14	6
Derek Griffiths, JBS	7	7	14	6
John Hellyer, JBS	3	11	14	4

MILTON AEROS
Final Statistics

	GP	G	A	Pt.
Tom Butt	30	28	42	70
Glen Murray	25	35	25	60
Doug Fry	29	15	41	56
Bob Baker	31	13	29	42
Archie Chase	23	19	19	38
Steve Bronozewski	20	13	22	35
Paul McCann	30	12	23	35
Barry Trood	30	9	24	33
Steve Cloutier	17	15	12	27
Dennis Longpre	25	12	13	25
Steve Clewes	22	12	5	17
Bill Bryant	21	4	13	17
Bryan Cleaver	14	6	9	15
Lorne Lesuk	11	3	12	15
Brad Buchanan	24	6	5	11
Dave Norton	7	6	5	11
Perry Caputo	15	2	7	9
Ed Huizingh	20	0	8	8
Bill McGilloway	12	2	4	6
Bruce Ellison	5	2	3	5
Tim Bryant	28	1	4	5
Steve Jobin	10	2	2	4
Marty Seeds	8	0	2	2
Art Currie	2	1	0	1
Pat Devlin	2	1	0	1

Leading Goalkeepers
(150 mins needed)

	Min.	GA	SO	Ave.
Hap Perrot, LP	226	14	0	2.17
Dave Ballard, RE	385	25	1	2.27
Phil Bailey, JBS	445	32	2	2.46
Al Horney, RE	245	20	0	2.86
Brad Evans, CD	155	13	1	2.94

Goalies

	GP	GA	Ave.
John Muizelaar	18	107	5.94
Peter McDuffe	9	38	4.22
Pat Devlin	4	27	6.75
Bob Benson	1	7	7.0

Springers show their stuff

Members of Milton Springers recreational and pre-competitive gymnastic teams got a chance to show their stuff over the weekend with meets in North York and Milton.

Members of the recreational program travelled to North York for a meet Saturday and some gymnasts showed very well.

In the Argo C group, Denise Collier placed second overall with firsts on the beam and bars and a second on her floor routine.

In the same group, Mandy Barray was first on the beam, fourth on the floor and fifth on vault while Sandra Carrara was fourth on her floor routine.

In the Argo B level, Jackie Keyworth was fifth on beam followed by Christine Manor who was sixth. Kelly Newman was sixth on vault.

In Argo A, Beth Elliot was second all-around with a second on the beam, a third on her floor routine and fifths on vault and bars.

Angela Barrow was fourth in the same group with a second on floor, a third on bars and a sixth on vault.

Tina Eschenbrinner was third on floor and picked up a pair of fourths on vault and beam.

At the Tyro B level, Brenda Marshall was second on beam, fourth on floor and sixth on bars.

In novice, Marissa Long claimed the top spot and the gold medal with three firsts on beam, floor and vault plus a second on bars.

Elaine Erich was fourth all-around with a second on beam and floor, a third on bars and a sixth on vault.

The following day, Springers held a three-team meet at the Old Firehall of pre-competitive gymnasts in Tiny A and Cadet A groups.

In the Tiny A grouping, Bobbi-Ann McPherson claimed the top spot with firsts on bars, beam and floor and a second on vault.

She was followed by Julie Arnold who was first on vault, second on beam and floor and third on bars.

Third place went to Theresa Geniole who was second on bars, third on vault, fourth on floor and fifth on beam.

At the Cadet A level, Springers claimed the top two spots with Kim Collier leading the way followed by Beth Cameron.

Collier was first three times on bars, beam and floor and second on vault to nail down the top spot. Cameron was first on vault, second on floor and third in both bars and beam.

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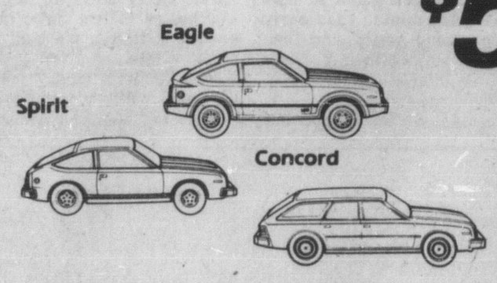

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