



Last putt

Don Woods of Penetanguishene watches his putt head toward the makeshift flag on the ninth green at Midland Golf and Country Club Sunday. Sunday was a great day for a round of nine, but there won't be too many more.

Stoneleigh Midgets earn two wins

The Midland Stoneleigh Motors Minor Midgets came out of weekend league play with two victories tucked under their belts.

Tom Hook scored twice to lead the Midland team to a 7-1 hammering of host Meaford Sunday. Other Midland goals came

from Marlon Geiseler, Jim Edgar, Kevin Thomas, John Sallows and Mark Degagne.

At home Saturday, the Stoneleigh squad scored a 5-2 triumph over Owne Sound.

Mike McLoughlin netted two in that one, with singles had by Andrew Duckworth, Hook and Degagne.

Howard comes up empty

by Garry Forbes

The Russ Howard rink came up empty in last weekend's Molson Classic bonspiel at the Royal Canadian Curling Club in Toronto.

Howard, a skip of Ontario's 1979-80 championship rink, easily won his first game of the season's biggest money event before running into defending Canadian Brier champ Kerry Burtnyk of Winnipeg on Friday.

Burtnyk, winner of the round-robin preliminaries at last year's Silver Broom

world championship, defeated the Howard rink 8-6, with the difference coming on the last shot.

Burtnyk was then dumped 8-5 in the main event semi-finals by Joe Gurowka of the host club. Burtnyk won \$1,200 in prize money, Gurowka took home \$4,200 after his loss to Ed Werenich of Avonlea in the final -- in which Werenich won \$8,400 -- and the four members of the Howard rink each left \$60 (in entry fees) lighter.

Howard says though he was disappointed in elimination by such a

narrow margin, the results were an indication of the unpredictability of the mens' curling scene this season.

"We really should have beaten (Burtnyk)," Howard, a native of Midland, said from his present residence in Huntsville. "It was a good, close game. It's going to be a tough year, too. I'd say there were only four or five rinks out of the 64 that were there that didn't have a shot at the championship."

In the Howard rink's previous bonspiel, the

Masters Invitational in Ottawa, their opponents scored three points in the final end to win by two and rob the Howard rink of at least \$1,000 in prize money.

Others in Howard's formidable contingent are vice Bob Charlebois of Toronto, skip of last year's Ontario championship rink, and veteran Penetanguishene club curlers Kent Carstairs, lead, and Larry Merkley, second.

Next outing will be the second-largest event of the Ontario circuit, a

Whitby-hosted competition which carries a \$7,000 top prize.

In late December, the rink will begin its trek toward the Ontario championships, aiming first for a win out of its home club. Though they haven't made a final decision, Howard says they'll probably base themselves at the Penetanguishene Curling Club.

Howard says he also plans to take part in the Midland Curling Club's first major cash bonspiel, slated for late January.

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