



## Howard is No. 2 but No. 1 in our hearts

hard fought victory, finished the week long event at 10-2.

No one really ties to finish second, but Howard, in his second trip to the Brier, stated before the event commenced, that his aim was to make the playoffs. He did that and more. Penetang, Midland, Elmvale and all of Ontario, should be more than pleased with Howard's accomplishments. The Blue Jays weren't bood when they came second to Kansas City.

The Howard foursome is a good bet to be around for a long time. They'll be back next year, and should be the odds on favorites.

Glen Howard was named as vice skip on the all-star team, with Russ being named skip of the second team, along with Kent Carstairs as lead.

Young Tim Belcourt performed like a

veteran in his first Brier and curled in the high eighties in the crucial final match.

Howard's efforts in this year's Brier are likely to have residual effects for local curling clubs. Many people were glued to T.V. sets in the local bars and clubs to follow Howard's progress. Upwards to a hundred people were glued to the T.V. set at the Midland Legion Saturday afternoon. Several of these people

didn't know the difference between an inturn and outturn. Might be a good time for local clubs to have membership drives.

The mood Sunday at the Midland Curling Club changed from apprehension to confidence as the match progressed, and then to gloom in the fateful ninth end. Silence filled the air as great disappointment could be felt. There may have even been a damp eye or two.

## Stoneleigh Centennials on playoff trail!

Midland Stoneleigh Centennials, Georgian Bay Junior C Champions will host Bradford, Wednesday night, at Centennial Arena for the opening game in a best of seven playoff series.

Last year Bradford handily won the opening game of the series, but Midland came storming back to win the next four games and eliminate Bradford from further competition.

Game two is slated for next Sunday in Bradford beginning at 7 p.m., with the third one back in Midland on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

The fourth game will be played in Bradford Sunday, March 23 at 7

p.m. If necessary, game five will be at Centennial Arena, with game six back in Bradford, both at 8:30 p.m. The final contest is scheduled for Midland on Sunday, March 30 at 8 p.m.

Advance ticket sales prices will be \$5 for gold seats available at Stoneleigh Motors or at Centennial Arena prior to the game. At the gate, the prices will be \$4 for adults with senior citizens and students receiving their regular discount.

For all games in Bradford, a fan bus will be available. For further information, contact Al Puddicombe at Stoneleigh Motors.

## Parkview and Monsignor Castex tops in Tourney

Huron Park Invitational Junior Boys Basketball Tournament saw action last Wednesday in Midland Secondary

School triple gym featuring teams from Parkview, Huron Park, Port McNicoll, Monsignor Castex, Regent and St. Joseph's. In the 'A' Pool final, Parkview outthopped Monsignor Castex 28-10. St. Joseph's opened the floodgates in the 'B' Pool final with a 45-13 victory. Huron Park nipped Port McNicoll 28-20 for top honours in pool 'C'.

Parkview experienced no trouble in getting to the finals

Parkview experienced no trouble in getting to the finals as they walked over Port McNicoll 60-5, and Regent 60-9, before coming up against a stubborn Monsignor Castex squad in their final round robin match.

Parkview won that game 32-25.

It was the girl's turn on Thursday, as Monsignor Castex dumped Huron Park, 27-8 in their opening encounter. They then sailed past St. Joseph's by a 54-7 score, before disposing of Parkview 31-13.

Meanwhile, Port McNicoll tripped Parkview 37-20, Huron Park 35-12, and rolled over Regent 40-21, setting up the final with Monsignor Castex. The outcome of that match was a 34-33 overtime victory for the girl's from Monsignor Castex.



### All in the back and wrist

The curling at this year's Brier in Kitchener couldn't have been any keener for rinks from Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. This

is action from the Ontario-B.C. match-up last Saturday featuring "home-town" favourites Russ Howard and his rink from

Penetanguishene.

-Photo by Michele Gouett

## Comeback kids nearly beat odds

by ED PEARSON

The awesome foursome from Penetanguishene, the Ontario Howard rink of Russ and Glenn, ably abetted by Kent Carstairs and Tim Belcourt, were the gallant losers to the Alberta Luckowich rink on the last rock of the last end of the last day of a week of high drama at the Labatt's Men's Canadian Curling championships at Kitchener on Sunday.

All week they had been the come-back kids, clawing the way back into contention with gut-wrenching victories over the other eleven Provincial teams, sometimes when they were down lower than a snakes belly.

On Saturday they had scrambled into the final by the virtue of a great character building steal in an extra end to defeat British Columbia 6-5. B.C. seemed to have them on the ropes after a disasterous third end when they led 3-1. The Howard boys retained their composure with Russ showing the patience of Job.

They pecked away at the B.C. lead until they drew level in the tenth. An opportunity presented itself in the extra end when B.C. inadvertently left a guard littering the front of the house. Tim Belcourt drew a shot around the guard and went to ground just behind the button. B.C. were obliged to squander their shots, trying to dislodge the pesky Ontario rock, until finally the B.C. vice was able to spill the shot.

Down to skip rocks, McPhee drew around the everpresent guard and was a little heavy to draw to the back of the house. Russ went to school on his shot, and graduated with a perfect draw behind cover near the top of the four foot.

That left McPhee with a chance to outdraw Russ on the other side of the guard. He was a smidgin heavy and Ontario was into the final by inches.

The final is history and drama of the highest order. It would be superflous to give a blow by blow of the final action. I am sure that there is not one reader who was not glued to CBC-TV agonizing with Russ Howard and his henchmen as they lost to Alberta by the narrowest of margins 4 to 3. As the low score indicates, it was a guard and take-out battle.

The Howard rink are skilled exponents of the gentle art of tender take-out, you are not likely to suffer a whiplash watching any one of them execute a take-out. Their draw and tactical game was of the same high standard. The crucial end was the ninth.

Both teams had been playing a waiting game, blanking and scoring only when forced into it by the other rink. Russ had the hammer and was one shot down. They had manufactured a situation where they had one rock sitting at eight o'clock on the outer rings, they had eliminated all Alberta rocks from the house. Lukowich put his last rock into the four foot.

Russ, with the hammer, had to take out that rock and stay to score two for a 4 to 3 lead.

Tension in the place was unbearable. Russ went into his classic slide, Glenn at vice was a coiled spring, the sweepers, Kent and Tim, nursed the rock with loving care from hog to house. Russ got his hit, the western rock squirted out, but alas and alack, the treacherous shot rock crawled from the house. Russ had to be content with the single score. The last end was an anti-climax. Alberta routinely sailed to their win on the backs of their take-out.