

Sports Scene

Howard wins rematch with German opponent

by Ed Pearson

The 1987 world curling champion, Russ Howard, of Penetanguishene Curling Club faced the 1987 World Silver medallist, Roger Schmidt of West Germany Monday night at PCC.

Although the score of the 10-end exhibition was 14-4 in Howard's favor, it tells only part of the story.

The thrilling encounter saw Schmidt throw caution to the wind in an attempt to score large ends instead of playing safe and pecking away at Howard's rapidly escalating lead.

To the delight of a capacity crowd, the German played a swashbuckling game and several times came agonizingly close to changing the game's complexion.

Schmidt took four of the 10 ends, losing the hammer by winning the second, third, fifth and ninth ends by single counters.

The Schmidt rink played a versatile game, changing tactics constantly, swapping the corn brooms for push brushes often and switching from German to English frequently. Apparently "whoa" means stop in any language.

Russ Howard, with brother Glen at vice, Tim Belcourt, second stone and Kent Carstairs, lead, respected the German rink too much to ease up even in an exhibition match. They played their usual "water torture" game, tormenting their opponents with precision guards and stealthy come-arounds.

Howard piled on the agony in the last end by expediting a Schmidt rock from the house to sit four. It was a repeat of the 1987 world championships when Howard performed a similar feat to count five in the last end, beating Schmidt for the title 9-4.

The game was taped by MacLean Hunter Cable with commentary by David Gravelle and Jim Armstrong. It will be aired Jan. 16 at 8:30 p.m.



On the rocks

1987 World Silver medalist Roger Schmidt of West Germany Penetanguishene. The Howard rink won 14-4. (Photo by Ed Pearson.)

Parry Sound toppled

MSS captures zone curling title

Midland Secondary School's Tim Jenkinson skipped his foursome to four consecutive victories in Ontario Schoolboy Zone 10 B playdowns last Thursday at Midland Curling Club.

The Jenkinson rink toppled Parry Sound "B" 8-2 in the early morning fixture before duplicating the feat later in the forenoon in a game with Bracebridge.

The early afternoon encounter was a tad more difficult for Jenkinson's rink of vice skip Kevin Bowen, second Steve Langley and lead Sam Ellery.

MSS faced Huntsville, who polished off Penetang "B" 13-0 and Penetang "A" 6-4.

MSS got off to a good start with a single in the first end only to have Huntsville come back in the second with a pair. A steal of one in the third put Huntsville in front 3-1. Jenkinson blanked the fourth and picked up two in the fifth for a 3-3 tie. The teams traded single points in the sixth and seventh to be even at 4-4 going into the final end. Jenkinson stole a point to win 5-4.

Meanwhile, Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute nipped Steven Muxlow's MSS "B" squad 6-5 and deposed of Parry Sound "A" 7-2 before meeting the red hot Jenkinson foursome. OD is three time winners of the Gore Mutual Plaque winning the event in 1980-81, 82-83 and 85-86.

Jenkinson had an easier time in this contest winning 6-3 and advanced to Friday's final in the Gore Mutual sponsored playdowns.

MSS has won the event twice, the first time being the Colin Milligan skipped rink in 1984-85 while Steve Newhouse skipped his foursome to victory in 1986-87.

After losing to Jenkinson, OD was relegated to the "B" side where it nipped a stubborn Le Caron rink skipped by Marc Price, 10-8. Parry Sound "A" was sidelined by OD on its way to a second meeting with Midland's Jenkinson.

MSS took a single point in the first end and stole another in the second. OD blanked the third and got on the board with a

single point in the fourth. Midland struck for three in the fifth while OD blanked the sixth and seventh before taking two in the eighth. Midland took one in the ninth to

lead 6-3 and ran OD out of stones in the tenth to claim the victory.

The Jenkinson skipped foursome will meet Zone 10A at a date to be announced.

Four straight victories

Howard wins zone

Russ Howard skipped his rink to four consecutive victories during the weekend in Alliston to win the Zone 10 playdowns and advance to the regional playdowns next weekend in St. Catharines.

A first or second place in St. Catharines will put the foursome in the Ontario Blue Light Tankard in Trenton, Feb. 7-12.

Howard faced veteran Steve Brown of Gravenhurst in the "A" side final and was given a run for his money. Brilliant shot making by vice skip Glen Howard in the eighth end allowed the Stoneleigh Motors

sponsored foursome to take control, winning 8-7.

Russ was happy with his team's play. "In the first three games we played well," offered Howard. "There were no weaknesses at all. In the final, we played about 10 per cent worse, but it was tricky ice."

Keith Williams of the Midland Curling Club was sidelined early. Brian Brooks of the Penetanguishene Curling Club took his team to the "B" side semi-finals before being eliminated.