



Despite loss, Howard sets a Brier record

by David Gravelle
Special Report

When Russ Howard and his Ontario foursome downed Newfoundland, last Thursday night at the Labatt Brier in Saskatoon, it marked a milestone for the 33-year-old skip.

The 10-3 victory over Lorne Henderson gave Howard's team its eighth win at the Brier, and vaulted their skip to 13th

on the all-time Brier winning list. But, more importantly, the win made the golf pro the winningest skip in Ontario Brier history.

Howard's foursome ended round-robin play last week with an 8-3 record before losing 7-4 in the semifinal to B.C.'s Rick Folk.

Howard won five games in 1980 at the Calgary Brier. In 1986, in Kitchener, Howard won 10 games, only to lose in

the final to Ed Lukowich. And, in 1987 the Penetanguishene skip won the Canadian Men's Curling Championship with another 10 wins. That gave him a total of 25 wins entering this past edition of the Brier.

Last week, Howard scored eight wins in the round robin, to raise his win-loss rate to 33-14. Paul Savage, who has appeared in five Briers, has 32 wins, while other curling legend Ed Werenich

has 29. Howard's feat is phenomenal because he is a relatively young skip; however, he is still nowhere near the record of 45 Brier wins set by Ernie Richardson of Saskatchewan in the late 1950s, early '60s. That record was equalled at last week's Brier by Al Hackner of Thunder Bay. He was expected to beat the record, but only won three games while losing eight.

Local curler on all-stars

by David Gravelle

When the key shots had to be made last week, the man at the helm more often than not did the job. Russ Howard has been making the key shots at the right time all year long for his rink, and that consistent play showed up in the final shooting percentages at the Labatt Brier in Saskatoon.

The skips of the top three teams, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario, finished tied for first place, all shooting at an 81 percent clip. But, when the Canadian Curling Reporters sat down to vote for the first and second all-star teams, Rick

Folk edged Howard for top honors.

Folk's first all-star team consisted of Randy Ferbey and Don Walchuk from Alberta and Dallas Duce from Saskatchewan. Meanwhile, Howard's second all-star team featured Bert Gretzinger from B.C. at third, Peter Hollett of Newfoundland at second, and Donald McKenzie of Alberta at lead.

Ontario's Kent Carstairs was fourth on the lead's percentage sheet shooting a cumulative 81 percent. Tim Belcourt was fifth among seconds at 80 percent, while Glenn Howard was fourth among thirds at 79 percent.

Howard

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At that point, something strange happened to skip Russ Howard. His concentration level was off, he became distracted, and his trips to the water cooler became more frequent. Asked after the game, what had happened, he said that after the sixth end, he knew his team had lost.

Russ made a hit for two in the seventh to narrow the margin to 5-4, but that became 7-4 in the eighth when the B.C. skip drew into the circles for one and won a measure of a rock.

That's the way it ended, as Howard blanked the ninth, and ran out of rocks in the final frame. That loss put an Ontario rink out of the final for the second consecutive year. Last season, Paul Savage of Toronto lost in the semifinal to Eugene Hritzuk of Saskatchewan.

The team was disappointed following the match because their goal this season was to return to the world championships. Russ Howard said that the rink would have to work even harder if it planned to take another run at the Brier and world championship.

"I think if we're going to do it all again, we're going to have to do it a lot more diligently. We have to apply ourselves more."

On straight ice, the Howard team's fortunes were affected. As masters of the draw, the peeling performance of a rink like Pat Ryan would prove no match, leaving many to wonder what has to be done to make the ice more conducive to the finesse game, a game which is obviously more entertaining for the fans.

"Something has to be done," said Russ Howard. "Even if it means a smaller crowd, or a different location."

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We are growing - in partnership with the community

More rural Canadians are enjoying increased access to postal products and services through retail postal outlets in their communities. This is happening in partnership with hundreds of local businesses right across the country, in a variety of ways.

Here are some examples of how we are expanding

In Whistler, British Columbia. Two new retail postal outlets, operated by local businesses, have opened this year. The new outlets complement the services offered at the Whistler corporate post office. They are the first step to improved service in this rapidly-developing community.

"The response from the customers has been fantastic. It's working out well."
- Harry McKeever, Operator, Retail Outlet, McKeever's General Store

In Rose Bay, Nova Scotia. We have another link in Canada Post Corporation's growing network of postal outlets. This time in a community where for two years, retail service was not provided through a corporate outlet. Retail postal service is now provided in partnership with a local business.

"I feel that the postal outlet here is a great step in the right direction to service the people in the area."
- Sam Emmons, President, Rose Bay area Board of Trade

In Ste-Félicité-de-l'Islet, Québec. A retail postal outlet is now offering postal services and products in a community where no post office existed before.

"In addition to the services provided by a retail postal outlet established in a local business, we now have the benefit of our own postal code."
- Jean-Paul Pellerin, Mayor, Municipality of Ste-Félicité-de-l'Islet

In Lewvan, Saskatchewan. A retail postal outlet is now open to serve customers. The outlet provides customers with access to postal products and services. These services have not been available locally for four years.

"The retail postal outlet in the Co-op convenience store is a good arrangement - they support each other and it provides all the necessary postal services."
- Larry Davis, Councillor, Rural Municipality of Wellington, Saskatchewan

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is holding their**

ANNUAL MEETING

for the

Election of Officers

For the 1989-90 season and
voting on additions and amendments
of the rules and regulations
to the constitution.

**Wed., April 12, 1989 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Penetanguishene Arena**

All interested parties are invited to attend.