



RISE OF ASIA DIGITAL ISSUE

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WHAT JUST HAPPENED

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John Shuster's Team USA



Canada's Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris



Team Hasselborg of Sweden

IT'S A NEW CURLING WORLD

By George Karrys

IF YOU'RE A CURLING FAN, you've got preconceived beliefs about your favourite sport. Up is not down. Left is not right. The strong devour the weak. He didn't dump his in-turn, the skip gave him the wrong ice. And so on.

If you're a curling fan, there's a good chance that you consumed a massive amount of Olympic curling coverage last month. And if you're a curling fan, there's a good chance that you've got a feeling... that what happened in PyeongChang, South Korea was wild, unpredictable and historic.

It feels like a dream. Or a nightmare, depending on which country you cheer for.

Did that... ALL OF THAT... really just happen?

Once you accept the reality you've just witnessed, you're left with one question... was this the greatest, craziest, most memorable Olympic Curling Games ever?

We think so. Here are our arguments.

PyeongChang marked the debut of Mixed Doubles, won by Canada's Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris over Switzerland's Martin Rios and Jenny Perret. We'll talk about the bronze medal a bit later.

While the new discipline still rankles traditionalists, it proved to be a smash hit across the board. This includes TV ratings, which are critical to acceptance within the Olympic family. That family, by the way, must technically rule on whether or not MD stays an

Continued on page 3

Kurling for Kids – Giving back through curling

By Stan Fong

IN 1996, a two-year old girl named Jessica was diagnosed with a brain malformation that, if left untreated, could lead to convulsions, stroke, and even death. Her parents, Robert and Sylvie, were given the opportunity to save their daughter with a high-risk life-saving brain surgery called a craniotomy, to fix the malformation. The surgery, performed at Hôpital Ste Justine in Montreal – with a team of doctors from two hospitals – was a success. Jessica's life was saved.

To see their story, click on this link in your digital edition: Jessica's Story.

Robert Sears is a very thankful father, and decided he wanted to give back to the hospital that saved his daughter's life. He is also a curler, and thought "what better way to give back than to hold a fundraising bonspiel with some co-workers and friends and raise money for Hôpital Ste Justine."

Robert had hoped to raise \$500 to give to the hospital that first year. In reality, that first fundraising bonspiel (in 1999) raised over \$6,600.

Robert knew he was on to a good thing, and thus Kurling for Kids was born.

Fast forward to 2018, and Kurling for Kids is now celebrating its 20th year. The prestigious event now raises funds for both children's hospitals in Montreal – Hôpital Ste Justine and Montreal Children's Hospital. Over the first 18 years, Kurling for Kids has raised close to \$3 million making it the most successful curling fundraising organization in history, and one of the top fundraising charities for the hospitals in Montreal.

Ambitious

Over the years, the funds raised have been used to acquire much needed medical equipment that otherwise would not be purchased due to budget constraints. Some of the highlights over the first 18 years:

2001 – set the initial Guinness World record for a 24-hour curling marathon

2006 – surpassed \$100,000 for one year



2010 – surpassed \$200,000 for one year

2013 – awarded the curling event of the year by Curling Quebec

2013 – First appearance in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

2014 – surpassed \$300,000 for one year

2016 – surpassed \$2.5 million in total funds raised

2017 – Raised \$360,000

For the 20th anniversary event, the ambitious objective is to raise \$400,000 for the hospitals. Twelve curling clubs in the Montreal area will participate, and over 700 curlers will play and fundraise. Each club hosts an event that features two games, lunch, and dinner. Many of the participants are not even curlers; some curl only once a year, in this event, because they know the money raised is going to a fantastic cause.



For Hôpital Ste Justine, this year's event marks the second year of a four-year commitment to cover the cost of a \$600,000 piece of equipment called a neurosurgical laser. Already purchased by the hospital, it is the first ever of its kind in Canada. The first

ever surgery using the laser was performed on an epileptic child to remove a tumor in November 2016, and it was a huge success. Since then, five more patients have been treated using this extraordinary piece of equipment. Dr. Alexander Weil is the only pediatric neurosurgeon in Canada trained to perform the neurosurgical laser, and the hospital recruited Dr. Weil to operate this new device. You can see more details of the equipment by watching this YouTube video (linked in your digital edition).

When the Montreal Children's Hospital moved to its new site, the Children's Medical Imaging Department benefited from new, state-of-the-art imaging equipment, including a CT-Scan, gamma camera, general radiography/fluoroscopy equipment, and ultrasounds. The Medical Imaging Department wishes to acquire a state-of-the-art component – functional MRI – to enhance the capabilities of one of its MRIs. This software will be installed on the existing Siemens 3 Tesla magnet to perform a number of functional MRI exams.

Functional MRI (fMRI) is a technique for measuring brain activity called brain mapping. It localizes the regions where there is increase blood flow and determines which part of the brain is responsible for handling critical functions such as thought, speech, motor skills etc. Kurling for Kids would fund this functional MRI over a two- to three-year period, at a total cost of \$350,000.

On January 18, 2018, the hospitals held a launch party for this year's event and Global News was on hand

to cover the affair. Organizers from each club, special guests and doctors from the hospitals were on hand to wish the event all the best for a great campaign.

Robert Sears is the President and founder of Kurling for Kids, and along with vice president Carl Mainy and treasurer John Stone, are the driving force behind the organization. All have full-time jobs, but this is a labour of love for them as well as all the volunteers at each club and the over 700 participants. Robert has said, "If we are able to save the life of even one child, then it's all worth it. We can't heal a sick child by taking their place, but by giving, we can help them grow up healthy."

Get donors

How does Kurling for Kids raise so much money every year? There are several ways. First, K4K looks for corporate sponsors who are offered different levels of partnership with the organization. Second, raffle tickets are sold with great raffle prizes including plane tickets, electronics, and sporting event tickets. Third, each of the participants is encouraged to get donors to make donations. Donations of \$20 or more qualify for tax receipts. What is more amazing is that 100% of all donations go to the charity!

Each of the participants registering online before March 15 gets the early bird entry fee of \$50 (regular fee after March 15 is \$75). Participants are encouraged to create a personal fundraising page through the event website to help them solicit donations. By having donors donate online, tax receipts are issued by email immediately, thus saving much administrative work. In addition, participants are provided incentives to raise money. For each incentive level reached, each participant is awarded a monetary gift card. The more money raised, the more the gift card value.

Kurling for Kids takes place on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 12 curling clubs around the Montreal area. For more information on the charity, the event, and how to donate to this worthy cause or even participate, please visit the website www.kurlingforkids.org.

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