

SIN CITY BONSPIEL

DAILY LOG (courtesy Frank Nash, Dan Eakins, Jack Campbell and Lawrence Woytowich)

Oct. 25 Hello Glen Meadows Curlers,

Did you know that our own BC Senior's Champions are at it again. I think that this time they have taken on more than they bargained for. They are playing in a crazy bonspiel in Las Vegas. It is called the Sin City Midnight Madness (yes City is spelled correctly, just part of the craziness of this event). Our team of Lawrence Woytowich, Lynn Wilson, Wayne Scott and Frank Nash flew down to Las Vegas this afternoon (Thursday) to play in this international bonspiel. Get this, their first game is tonight at 9:00 P.M. and their second game is at 1:45 A.M. (yes, the middle of the night!). The rest of the schedule does not get any better. All the games are during the late night. Even the opening ceremonies are at a crazy time, 11:30 P.M. And they have a costume party to attend Friday night at 10:45 P.M. between games. (I asked what costumes they will wear but so far they are keeping it a secret, hmmm???)

If you are interested in the website to check up on this crazy bonspiel, go to www.sinsityspiel.com

Below is a message from the Skip, Lawrence Woytowich, as they were heading off today:

"This could be challenge for both the curlers and the spectators. The Europe/ North America "Margarita" spiel is during the day. The one we are in, is a piggy back onto the first and is called Sin City Midnight Madness. Our first draw is at 9 pm and the second 1:45 am. We should get off the ice by 4 am and in bed by 5 in the morning. The festivities are shared together by both spiel participants, although I don't know how everyone is going to feel with these crazy hours. My major concern right now is that three of us are fighting a bug and hurting, which leaves a healthy Frank Nash sweeping all alone.

They did mention 17 countries have entered, but I assume most of those are playing in the Margarita. We play Alaska in the first draw and I understand there are 4 teams from Canada, two from Kamloops and one from Quebec. Our team is registered under "YVR Islanders".

Our intrepid team have told me they will try to keep me informed of how they are doing as the bonspiel progresses. If I get any updates I will send them on to everyone. League Directors: feel free to pass on this and any updates to your members.

Yours,

Dan Eakins

October 25,

From: jack_campbell@telus.net

To: dgeakins@shaw.ca

Subject: Vegas

Hi Dan:

Anna and I are in Vegas. It is actually 288 miles and not the 181 that the distance chart showed. Travel time is around 4 hrs. if you keep a steady 70 mph. We went to see the Las Vegas Ice center and there are 2 hockey rinks. One is being used for curling. I think there are 6 sheets. The houses are defined and the lines that separate the sheets extend out to the hog line. ie. no indication of what sheet you are on if you are 1/2 way down the sheet. Also no barriers to stop the rocks from going onto the other sheet. I also noticed the rings of the house are not very well defined. Looks like it would be a good idea to keep the measuring tools handy.

Ray Field was playing while I was there. He has a mixed team in the Margarita spiel.

The two hockey rinks are connected end to end with a snack bar etc in between them. Also at the other end of the rink that the curlers are on is a bar with a viewing area. However you have to look thru netting that is set up to stop hockey pucks. Unfortunately there is no other enclosed viewing area. There is no upstairs viewing

area. There are however benches that fold down along the sides of the rink. A bit chilly I would think. Don't know if anyone is going to set them up as I didn't see much of a crowd anywhere.

I talked to Ray (thru the hockey glass) and asked him how the ice was. Not sure what he said but he didn't look happy.

Anna and I are still going to catch the 9:15 game but definitely will not be there for the 1:45 one. Will be heading back to Palm Desert after lunch tomorrow. Am staying at Trump Towers tonight. Donald hasn't called to invite us to dinner yet but I'm sure he will. Probably just busy and hasn't had time.

Take Care, Jack

Oct. 26 Good morning Glen Meadows curlers:

Here is an update from our intrepid YVR ISLANDERS team down in Las Vegas. This report is from the Lead, Frank Nash. If you remember from the last update, he was the only one not suffering from a cold so I guess he was detailed off by the rest of them to make a report while they all went to bed?? Or maybe it was just because he was the Lead, you know how it goes.

I wonder if Jack Campbell stayed up to watch the 1:45 a.m. game and cheer on our team?

I am curious to hear more of their van ride after reading Frank's report. Sounds like the Hummingbird Pub bus run on Galliano Island if you have ever done that ride.

Note that the next game is 1:00 A.M. tonight, ouch! And before that they have to attend the Costume Party, which they are still not mentioning in their reports, hmmm! I am beginning to think they are going to dress up as Elvis impersonators or something like that??

Dan

Oct. 27 Hello Glen Meadows curlers:

Our team in Las Vegas is holding up well. (See Frank Nash's report below.) They are undefeated on the ice so far and if you look at the attached photos you will see that they are having fun at the same time. Pretty ugly costumes eh? They are recognizable, but just! Have a look at the photo with the fellow who looks something like Wayne Scott asleep on the ice. I think we should ask Jo-Ann and G.M. staff to get us a couch on the ice too. What do you think? It would be a great place to rest while waiting for Jack Campbell to make up his mind which shot to call during a game!

It looks like we have a story brewing about Wayne being propositioned, can't wait to dig into that one when they get back.

Well done to Team YVR ISLANDERS, keep it up, we are cheering for you back home.

Dan Eakins

From Frank Nash:

Well, we won our the first draw by default -- the Alaskan Cousins were no-shows. Game #2 ended at 4:30 AM this morning and we have just arrived back at the hotel. As Jack had mentioned the ice was very challenging with lots of falls, runs, mis-matched rocks and debris. Regardless, the final score was 6 to 5 in our favour against the team (actually of two teams) from Kamloops.

We get the rest of the day off -- our next game starts at 1:00 AM tomorrow (Saturday) morning -- preceded by dinner and the costume judging.

All the best.

Frank (on behalf of the Woytowich team)

ps: you'll have to remind us to share the details of the ride back to the hotel with four other teams in a nine passenger van and some very loud music.

Hi again everyone,

Would you believe it, Jack Campbell is down in Las Vegas to watch tonight's curling during the Sin City Spiel. He and Anna are actually on holidays in Palm Desert but drove up to Las Vegas to watch the curling (dedication or nuts?). You have got to read his email below, it just adds to the craziness of this bonspiel.

Thanks Jack, send us any updates and say hi to Donald when he shows up, surely he wouldn't miss this event!

Dan



Thought you might enjoy the attached photo of the team posing in costume, and of Wayne catching forty winks. To Wayne's credit, he was able to sleep in that sofa on the ice while the previous draw was being played! We were on the ice at 1:30 AM and prevailed over the opponents (a young, well trained team from Wisconsin), placing us first in our pool. Tonight (Saturday) at 6:00 PM and again at 10:30 PM we play a round robin with the winners of the other two pools to decide first place overall. Will update you prior to our flight home at 8:00 Sunday morning.

Frank

ps: you might ask Lawrence who propositioned him while waiting (in full costume) for the shuttle to the Ice Center

Oct. 28 Hi Glen Meadows curlers:

As luck would have it, I was on the 1 p.m. ferry coming home from Vancouver today and who was in the car line up beside me – four very tired but happy Glen Meadows curlers. Sure enough, the YVR ISLANDERS were on the same ferry so I got a chance to get the latest results of their crazy bonspiel. I won't give you all the details, just the basics until I can get more out of these sleepy guys. Yes, very sleepy looking indeed. They finished their final game last night at 3:00 a.m., got back to the hotel for about an hour and a half sleep then they had to get underway to catch their flight home. So when I saw them they were dragging you know what behind them.

Anyway, the word of the day is Winners – sort of that is. They ended up in A Division and in a three-way playoff with one of the two teams from Kamloops and a team from Wisconsin. So on the last night of the bonspiel they played against the Kamloops team first and were defeated by this young team. Then Kamloops played the Wisconsin team and were defeated. So next our YVR ISLANDERS played the Wisconsin team and won the game in an extra end. So all three A Division teams were sitting with a 1 win/1 loss record, but it was now 3:00 A.M. of the last day of the spiel. Nobody was ready to play another round of play so it was decided to call it a three way tie for first place.

By the way, this was an open spiel so our guys had to play against some pretty stiff competition and many were in their mid-30s. The Wisconsin team's skip was a three time US champion and has been coached by Bill Tschirhart I have forgotten the name of the skip, but you can ask one of our players and they will tell you all

about the competition. I heard some pretty interesting stories that you will all want to hear yourselves – just ask Lynn Wilson about his run in with two law enforcement officers – and ask Lawrence about being propositioned, it is worth a giggle.

Well that is it from your roving reporter. If there are any more stories to come out of this I will send them along for interest.

Congratulations to team YVR ISLANDERS: Lawrence Woytowich, Lynn Wilson, Wayne Scott and Frank Nash – and have a good sleep!

Dan Eakins

Oct. 30

Hi Glen Meadows Curlers:

Well the guys have had a good sleep. Frank has spilled the beans about Lynn's near incarceration, interesting you have got to read below and see the photo!! Obviously we need Lynn to tell us "the rest of the story". Quite the score in the final game eh? And look at the credentials of the opposing team's skip!!! Whew, bet that put pressure on our boys just to have to face Paul Pustovar!! Well done team.

I heard one story from Lawrence that I wanted to pass on to everyone. If you have been following the saga of this spiel you will remember Jack Campbell's description of the rink and the condition of the ice and that there are no dividers between the sheets. When I asked Lawrence how bad it really was he gave me an example; on one shot he was attempting to put a rock in the eight foot around a guard put up by the enemy. He delivered the rock and the sweepers called it's weight good for the shot planned. But the stone started to fall and it just kept on falling instead of curling with the turn. It fell right across into the next sheet of ice and ended up on the twelve foot ring of the adjacent sheet. Crazy eh?

Alright everyone and team YVR ISLANDER, see you all at Glen Meadows where the rocks stay on the right sheet.

Dan

p.s. thanks Frank for the photos and your nightly reports.

FROM FRANK NASH:

Hi Dan.

In follow-up to your note to members regarding the final results at the Sin City Spiel, attached are two photos you might find interesting.



The first is the scoreboard of the game against Paul Pustovar's team. Pustovar is the 2010 World senior men's champion, and five time winner of the U.S. Men's. The photo shows the drama, with neither team scoring more than one point an end. We were down one without hammer coming home in the 8th, but made several tricky shots to tie and take the game into an extra end. The 9th end was a feat of endurance and negative ice, but we were able to steal to win.

The second photo shows Lynn Wilson being "detained" by police during a very loud demonstration. Somehow with a small "payment" we were able to bail him out – to his disappointment.

Frank, on behalf of the team