

Curlers learning from the best

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Sports Staff

It may be called the Ford World Men's Curling Championship, but for Taylor Kimmitt it might as well be the Academy Awards. The University of Alberta men's curling team skip couldn't ask for anything more than to sit in the stands at Rexall Place watching some of his heroes play live. But instead of searching for autographs, Kimmitt is looking to bump into some big names and get some advice on game strategy from the best curlers in the world.

"On Saturday, I was down there with some of the [women's curling team], and we had a chance to talk to Russ Howard, the Olympic champion. Then we were in the Patch after having a few wobbly-pops and got to talk to Kevin Martin for 20 minutes or so," Kimmitt said. "It was great just to talk to them; it's like meeting your favourite NHL player."

Kimmitt said he was struck by how down-to-earth the curling gurus were despite their numerous accomplishments on the pebbled ice.

"They're the nicest guys around—they're not your typical celebrity; they don't brush you away; they're just normal guys," he said. "You can sit and talk and have a beer and talk curling."

Kimmitt, along with Tristan Pidruchney (lead), Colin Jenkyns (second), Brandon Klassen (third) and Matt Willerton (alternate) just came from the Canadian University Curling Championships where they finished second to the University of Manitoba. It was a close match with Manitoba needing an extra end to pull out a 5-4 victory. Kimmitt said it was tough to work so hard all year and come home with silver.

"We spent hours practising this year in preparation for Nationals: practising twice a week and playing once a week all the way from the start of October," he noted. "Toward the end we even started practising on Sunday's as well, so it was a huge time commitment."

However, despite loss in the final, Kimmitt felt that they may have exceeded expectations this season, and that he didn't really think they'd make it as far as they did.

"I don't want to say it was a surprise that we did as well as we did, but it's really validated all the work that we did all season, and all the hard work that our coach did," he said. "The [silver medal] was bittersweet. It was disappointing to lose but I was proud of the way we played—our coach's expectation was that we could go there and win, but I didn't believe it until we got there and were in control

of most of our games."

Curling is currently a club sport at the U of A, but since CIS decided to add it as a championship sport the U of A has responded by making them a full varsity sport next year. Preparations are being made to ensure that Alberta's transition to CIS is a smooth one, but the team will have different faces as Kimmitt is graduating. There should be some prominent curling talent to fill this void, though.

"It'll be awesome to have CIS support next year," he mentioned. "It's my understanding that some pretty high profile players are coming to the U of A. There's some good players coming in, so the team will definitely change."

Kimmitt is graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce this year, and will be leaving the curling program. He was set to hang up his broom for good, but Alberta's strong performance this season may have convinced Kimmitt to consider playing at another level.

"I said to my teammates [after the season] that it may be my last shot at competitive curling," he said. "I just wanted to go and have fun but I didn't expect the success we've had, so maybe I'll take a couple shots at the playdowns with another team."



FILE PHOTO: JACOB EDENLOFF

CURLERS IN DA HOUSE The Ford World Curling Championships have given U of A curlers a chance to mingle with some of the planet's best rock-throwers.

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The Gateway is looking for a Sports Editor

• The **Sports Editor's*** term runs from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Additionally, six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. The Sports Editor is expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In the full-time months, the position's salary is \$1281.88 per month.

The Gateway is also looking for a few part-time employees

• The **Online Coordinator*** will be responsible for keeping the *Gateway's* new website slick, sexy and not libellous. Hours are flexible, but free Monday and Wednesday nights are a must. Remittance is \$419.60 per month.

• Two **Circulation PALs*** will deliver the *Gateway* to campus and beyond. Free Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons are a must as is a driver's licence and clean driver's abstract. Remittance is \$329.96 per month.

Sound fun? Want to join the deathship?

Then please submit a resumé and cover letter, to Business Manager Steve Smith or Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner by **NOON Thursday, 5 April**.

Applications can be submitted by e-mail (biz@gateway.ualberta.ca or eic@gateway.ualberta.ca) or in hardcopy (Room 3-04 Students' Union Building).

* For information and rundown of the complete job descriptions (subject to change) e-mail eic@gateway.ualberta.ca



Additionally ...

The *Gateway* is holding a special general meeting to choose its two (2) 2007/08 volunteer-staff board of directors representatives

• The SGM will take place on Thursday, 12 April at 4pm. All volunteer staff are asked to attend if possible.

• If you're interested in running, you must have had five (5) contributions to the *Gateway* in the last year and have opted-in as a staff member to Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner. You can opt-in at any point before the meeting.

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