

CURLING Ok Sun B1
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Scott drops Scotties opener

O'Rourke's P.E.I. rink holds early lead at national championship

By The Canadian Press

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. — Kathy O'Rourke's P.E.I. rink sits atop the leaderboard after two straight wins on Saturday, the opening day of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

O'Rourke (2-0) scored two in the ninth end to edge Andrea Kelly's New Brunswick foursome 11-8 in Draw 2. Earlier, O'Rourke beat Saskatchewan's Amber Holland 10-3.

Six rinks are tied for second with 1-0 records, including defending champion Jennifer Jones who doubled up Manitoba's Jill Thurston 10-5 in the evening draw. Jones is vying for her third straight Scotties title.

Other results in Draw 2 had Sharon Cormier's of the Northwest Territories/Yukon defeating Nova Scotia's Nancy McConnery 8-2, and Alberta's Valerie Sweeting winning 6-5 in 10 ends over B.C.'s Kelly Scott of Kelowna.

Earlier Saturday, Ontario's Krista McCarville won her opener by defeating Holland 10-3, while Shelley Nicholls of Newfoundland and Labrador crushed Cormier 12-2.

Also, Quebec's Eve Belisle needed 11 ends to beat McConnery 8-6.

The event runs through Feb. 7 at the Essar Centre.

Scott is expected to be a strong contender in Sault Ste. Marie. She won back-to-back Canadian titles in 2006 and 2007 before taking some time off to have a baby.

Today, Scott faces Cormier in Draw 3 in action at 7:30 a.m., then meets Belisle in Draw 4 at noon.



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Team B.C. skip Kelly Scott of Kelowna calls while playing against Team Alberta during the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on Saturday. Scott lost 6-5.