

CURLING

Scott searching for more success

Kelowna skip brings loaded resume, world champion title to Scotties

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. (CP) — No matter what happens this week, no matter what happens the rest of her career, Kelowna's Kelly Scott will always be a world champion. Joining Canada's Jennifer Jones (2008) as the only two former world champions in the 2010 Scotties field, Scott's 2007 victory is something she'll never forget.

"Regardless of anything else, we'll always be a world champion," said Scott, whose B.C. rink takes a 2-1 record into today's game against New Brunswick. "To come through a season and achieve every goal you have is pretty fulfilling."

Representing Canada in Aomori, Japan, the rink of Scott, third Jeanna Schraeder, second Sasha Carter and lead Renee Simons, went 10-1 in round-robin competition. In the 1-2 playoff game, Canada stopped Denmark 11-3. That helped set the stage for a finals rematch with Denmark's Angelina Jensen, whose rink had beaten Scotland 9-6 in the semifinals.

"What I remember is that when we went out for practice the morning of the final, the humidity there was 100 per cent," said the 32-year-old Scott, who also won a world junior championship in 1995. "The ice had completely changed. It was a challenge getting used to it."

But the Scott rink did, eventually defeating Jensen 8-4.

"It's definitely the biggest thrill of my curling career," said Schraeder, who, along with Carter, is still a member of the Kelowna Curling Club rink. Jacquie Armstrong has since replaced Simons at lead.

"But winning the Canadians is also very rewarding," said Schraeder, who's combined with Scott and Carter to win Scotties crowns in 2006 and 2007. "Winning the worlds was pretty cool. It's something I'll never forget."

"It was the pinnacle of our careers," added Scott, whose team had won a bronze medal at the world championships one year earlier in Grand Prairie, Alta. "After finishing third the year before, we were on a mission. We were rolling the entire championships, beating teams who had beaten us the year before."

Schraeder says winning a world title definitely built the team's confidence, a feeling that lives on today.

"Being in every situation possible has made us stronger mentally," the third said. "You get better with experience and the more big competitions you play in, the better you get."

"I think you get battle-tested in a world championship," added Scott, who said Sunday she's pleased, so far, with her team's start at the Scotties.

The B.C. rink began competition slowly, losing 6-5 to Alberta's Valerie Sweeting on Saturday night. On Sunday, Scott edged Sharon Cormier of the Yukon and Northwest Territories 7-6, before securing a 6-4 win over Quebec's Eve Belisle.

Leading Quebec 5-4, Scott faced two Quebec stones in the four-foot as she rocked in the hack with the 10th end hammer.

Her draw weight was perfect as she got a piece of the button to hang on for the two-point victory.

"I've been there before," she laughed afterwards. "You always know you can make that shot. But it comes down to whether you do it. And we'll take that one."

Defending champion Jones, Ontario in lead

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. — Jennifer Jones didn't take long making herself at home in Sault Ste. Marie.



The Canadian Press

Team British Columbia skip Kelly Scott yells while playing against Team Yukon/Northwest Territories during Scotties Tournament of Hearts play in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on Sunday. Scott won 7-6.

Accompanied by a contingent of friends and family from her native Winnipeg, Jones also won over a number of the locals in the stands at the 2010 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Even at times during games, she acknowledged their support with a smile, wave or a quick word.

"The people in the Sault are amazing," said the Canada skip, whose rink is 3-0 following two days of action at the week-long Canadian women's curling championship. "We're really excited to be here. We have a few fans in the crowd, a few that came here and a few that live here. I know that because I don't know them. And that's great."

With a win over Manitoba on Saturday and victories over New Brunswick and Saskatchewan on Sunday, Canada looked like an early favourite to win its third-straight national title.

"Well, 3-0 is better than 0-3," said Jones, 35. "But we can still be a bit sharper, and we'll hope to get better as the week goes on."

Canada is on the ice again today for a seventh-draw tilt against Sharon Cormier's group from Northwest Territories/Yukon, and again for action against Shelley Nichols' group from Newfoundland and Labrador. Jones will enter today's action tied for first with Ontario's Krista McCarville, who notched wins over New Brunswick's Andrea Kelly, Alberta's Valerie Sweeting and Quebec's Eve Belisle to go 3-0 over the weekend.