

CURLING

Scott hot, Ursel cold heading into Olympic pre-trials

By Daily Courier Staff

Kelly Scott's rink appears to be drawing close to the button in their bid for a Canadian Olympic trials berth.

On the heels of a victory a week earlier at the World Curling Tour event in Winnipeg, Scott and rinkmates Jeanna Schraeder, Sasha Carter and Jacquie Armstrong won five of seven games and reached the quarter-finals in Saskatoon last weekend.

A 7-1 loss at the hands of Mirjam Ott of Switzerland on Monday at the Colonial Square Ladies Classic ended Scott's opportunity at back-to-back titles.

Down 3-0 in the fourth end, Scott had an opportunity to get back in the game, but Ott, a silver medalist at the past two world championships, stole two to take a stranglehold on the match.

Scott, the 2007 world champion, opened the 32-rink, \$35,000 triple-knockout event by dropping a 7-4 decision to Diane Foster of Lethbridge, the 2008 senior world champion. A steal of two in the fifth end proved the turning point.

An 8-4 win over Penny Barker of Saskatoon began a string of five wins in the B event. The Kelowna rink went on to defeat Heather Rankin of Calgary (6-3), Sherry Middaugh of Coldwater, Ont. (7-1), Eve Muirhead of Scotland (6-3) and Jennifer Jones of Winnipeg (7-3), the latter in a rematch of the final a week earlier in



The Canadian Press

Kelowna skip Kelly Scott and her foursome, including Jeanna Schraeder, Sasha Carter and Jacquie Armstrong, are off to a strong start to this Olympic season.

Winnipeg.

The No. 1 seed going into the Canadian Olympic pre-trials in Prince George beginning on Tuesday, Scott will get a first-round bye and play the winner of Krista McCarville (Thunder

Bay) and Cathy King (Edmonton).

In all, 12 women's teams will be vying for four spots at the final Canadian trials being held in Edmonton from Dec. 6 to 13. The winner will represent Canada at the 2010 Olympics.

Ursel finishes 4-3

Kelowna's Bob Ursel will go into the Olympic pre-trials in Prince George with a bit of a limp after a rock-hard start to the season.

Ursel and his rink of Jim Cotter, Kevin Folks and Rick Sawatsky finished with a 4-3 record last weekend in their final tuneup before the pre-trials.

A 5-3 opening loss to Sean Geall of New Westminster got the Ursel foursome off on the wrong foot at the 24-rink Cactus Pheasant Classic in Brooks, Alta.

Ursel came back to double up Thomas Dufour of France 8-4 in their first B-event matchup, but they shook hands with the Ralph Stoeckli rink of Switzerland after only five ends of a 7-1 defeat in their third game of the bonspiel.

An extra-end 6-5 victory over Kerry Burtnyk of Winnipeg kept Ursel alive, while he edged Greg McAulay of Richmond 4-3 and Niklas Edin of Sweden 5-4 to reach the C-event semi-final, where he fell 6-4 to Edmonton's Ted Appelman and missed the playoff round.

Ursel is now 23-6 overall this season and has won the September Shootout in Edmonton and the West Coast Classic in New Westminster, while placing second at the Vernon Cashspiel. Seeded ninth going into the pre-trials in Prince George, Ursel will try to avenge the past weekend's loss to Appelman when they meet in their first game on Tuesday.

As with the women's competition, four of the 12 teams will advance to the Olympic trials.