

SCORECARD

Scott back on national stage

WARREN HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

A one-year absence from the Canadian women's curling championship was more than enough time away for Kelly Scott.

The Kelowna curlers are headed back to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts national finals after winning the provincial women's title for the third time in six years.

Scott defeated Royal City's Kelley Law 8-4 in the B.C. final Sunday in Penticton and will now prepare for a trip to the Canadian championship Jan. 30 to Feb. 7 in Sault

Ste. Marie.

"You work hard all year, all the practicing, all that time you spend the gym is just for these moments," said Kelly Scott, who made four straight trips to the Scotties from 2005 to 2008.

"I guess it's all paid off and now we get a chance to represent our province again. It's exciting to be going back and who knows what the next step will be for us."

Facing tricky and unpredictable ice conditions throughout the week in Penticton, the Scott rink—also featuring third Jeanna Schraeder, second Sasha Carter and new

lead Jacquie Armstrong—called on their experience and finished the round robin in a tie for first with Law at 8-1.

The two rinks then met head on the Page 1-2 playoff game where Law emerged with a 9-3 win to advance to the final.

Down but not out, Scott rebounded to beat Marla Mallett in the semi-final, then took charge of the final against Law with steals in the fourth and fifth ends and never looked back the way to the win.

While the victory doesn't necessarily erase the disappointment of the Scott rink's performance

at the Olympic trials last month in Edmonton, it does confirm that the Kelowna foursome indeed remains one of the country's elite rinks.

"I think we had a really good year, we did well in cash spiels, and everything in our minds was going according to plan," Scott said. "For whatever reason we had one of our toughest weeks at the trials...that's just sports sometimes. But we managed to park that in the past, that was just one event and we weren't going to let it rattle us. We stayed positive and calm and went out and curled pretty well."



MARK BRETT/BLACK PRESS

KELOWNA'S KELLY SCOTT (left) along with Jeanna Schraeder, coach Gerry Richard, Sasha Carter and Jacquie Armstrong won the 2010 B.C. women's curling title Sunday in Penticton.

Scott won the 2005 and 2006 B.C. women's titles, before capturing both the 2006 and 2007 Canadian women's championships.