

## TSC August Newsletter

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This August News edition is dedicated to the two amazing major Curling events we were privileged to host in Raleigh last week: the sixth edition of Curling Night in America and the first-ever NBC Sports Network Sticks & Stones.

### Curling Night in America

While the competition took place Thursday, August 22 through Saturday, August 24, Curling Night in America (CNIA) was an event that required an astounding amount of local, national, and international expertise and man-hours to properly prepare for, and successfully execute, in an extremely tight timeframe.



Starting with the arrival of huge dehumidifiers at the competition venue, the Polar Iceplex on Raleigh Road in Raleigh, on Wednesday, August 13; through the multiple days of 24/7 ice preparation work by USA Curling's ice tech gurus from North Dakota; to the addition of top-tier lighting, sound, big-screen monitors, bleacher seating, camera platforms, and facility draping that converted the Iceplex into an Olympic-quality venue and one of the country's largest "TV studios" for broadcast coverage by NBC networks, CNIA was quite the undertaking. The end result, though, was a stunning presentation that led to fans and athletes alike raving over the unbelievable transformation of the venue.

Competition featured national teams of Italy, Japan, Scotland, and the U.S. contending in a double round-robin format to determine the CNIA team champions in Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles Curling. Athletes included the U.S. gold-medal winning team from the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeonChang, South Korea, and Olympians on Team Italy as well.

Enthusiastic fans packed the seating area and felt like they were truly part of the event as they were treated to seats that were only a few feet from the competition sheets. Athletes visited with fans on the concourse after each competition session, signing autographs, posing for photos, and chatting up event attendees, making for a first-class fan experience.

Curling Night in America was taped by NBC to be broadcast in the first quarter of 2020 with more than 18 hours of coverage that will be shown on NBC Sports Network according to the following schedule:

Friday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2020	9-11pm
Friday, January 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	10pm-12am
Friday, January 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	9-11pm
Thursday, January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	9-11pm
Thursday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	9-11pm
Friday, February 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	9:30-11:30pm
Friday, February 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020	10pm-12am
Friday, February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	9:30-11:30pm
Friday, March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	9-11pm

The Triangle Sports Commission and/or one of our event sponsors is likely to host one or more Watch Parties locally so stay tuned to our newsletters or TSC website for dates, times, and locations in that regard.




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## NBCSN's Sticks & Stones

Taking advantage of the fact that a complete broadcast crew, world-class athletes, and an Olympic-level venue were in place for Curling Night in America, NBC decided to use those elements to create a new made-for-TV event called NBCSN Sticks & Stones. Sticks & Stones took place Sunday, August 25 at the Polar Iceplex and featured Team USA Curlers, National Hockey League stars, and NBC commentators/on-air talent assembled on four teams and competing in Curling. The competition consisted of two semi-final matches followed by a championship final.



Competing teams were:

**Rock Stars:** John Shuster, Team USA Curling and Olympic Gold Medalist; Kendall Coyne, USA Women's Hockey and Minnesota Whitecaps; Jeremy Roenick, NHL on NBC studio analyst and former NHL great; and Cory Christensen, Team USA Curling.

**Legion of of Broom:** Jamie Sinclair, Team USA Curling; Joe Pavelski, Team USA Hockey and the NHL Dallas Stars; Matt Hamilton, Team USA Curling and Olympic Gold Medalist; and Tanith White, Team USA Figure Skating and NBC sports commentator

**Sweeping Beauties:** Chris Plys, Team USA Curling; AJ Mleczko, USA Women's Hockey and NHL on NBC analyst; Jacob Slavin, NHL Carolina Hurricanes; and Vicky Persinger,

Team USA Curling.

**Rollin' Stone:** Sarah Anderson, Team USA Curling; Alex Killorn, NHL Tampa Bay Lightning; Korey Dropkin, Team USA Curling; and Hilary Knight, USA Women's Hockey and Les Canadiennes de Montreal.

Sticks & Stones turned out to be quite the event as Carolina Hurricanes Head Coach Rod Brind'Amour, the Hurricanes' Storm Squad, and even the famous Hamilton the Pig all made appearances!

The Sticks & Stones event will be broadcast as three one-hour programs featuring each semi-final match and then the finals. Dates and times of the broadcasts have not been published as of yet, but we understand the programs will air during the upcoming winter sports season.



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### **Acknowledgements: Many Thanks!**

The successful hosting of both the Curling Night in America and Sticks & Stones events required a tremendous team effort involving USA Curling, World Curling, NBC, and the Triangle Sports Commission. The event also would not have been possible without the help of Triangle Curling Club and its members, and numerous local volunteers. Local sponsors are also essential to success and we want to extend our special thanks to our partners below.

**USA Curling:** Rick Patzke, CEO; Tom Violette, Operations Associate; Terry Davis, Director of Communications; and Warren Hansen.

**World Curling:** Richard Harding, Head of Broadcast; Belinda Bantle-Carboni, World Curling TV Production Manager; and Ken Ramsay.

**Carr-Hughes TV:** Jim Carr, Producer/Director; Ron Carr, Producer/Director; and Jeff Monty, Producer/Creative Director.

**NBC Sports Group:** Gary Quinn, Vice President Programming & Owned Properties; and Laura Cronin, Senior Production Manager.

**Toyota:** Josh Rudolph, MKTG; Matthew McBreen, MKTG; Mark Jacobson Toyota; Hendrick Toyota.

**Polar Iceplex:** Michael Baxter, Vice President, ASEC Southeast; and Cindy Zijlstra, General Manager.

**Triangle Curling Club:** Trevor Gau, President; and Keith Scott, CNIA Head Official.

**Triangle Sports Commission Staff:** Hill Carrow, Collins Lowder, Britney Shirley, Dannan Crabtree, Celine Ives, Kevin Pitino, Ellie Rinehart, and Andrew Stratton.

**Volunteers:** Gabriel Andrada, Kim Atwell, Michele Bade, Neil Banerjee, Chris Barry, Sidney Crowe, Marietta DiTommaso, Betty Griffin Feezor, Dustin Hesse, Kathy Jackson, Tonia Jackson, Katie Kaiser, Deb Kingsland, Don Lajoie, Jeremy Mailhot, Sue Mitchell, Liz Moffitt, Jose Angel Moreno Jr., Kem Morgan, Meaghan Mullooney, Joseph Murphy, Krista Myers, Timothy Myers, Kat North, Patricia Patterson, John Poshepny, Nancy-Anne Potts, Mike Radulovich, Nic Sanders, Dan Tomczak, Donald Triplett, Jerry Verrone, Mike Willeman, David Zimmerman.

**Local Sponsors:** Nan Hannah, Triangle Sports Commission; Hill Carrow, Sports & Properties, Inc.; Loretta Harper, Capitol Broadcasting Company; Scott Dupree, Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance; Anthony Blackman, Atlantic Tire; Dave Bengel and Donna Smith, Pepsi Bottling Ventures; and Dave Rogers, Big Boss Brewing.

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