



MEDIA RELEASE

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CURLING: Teams confirmed for 2011 World Financial Group Continental Cup

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St. Albert, Canada - The teams have been confirmed for the 2011 World Financial Group Continental Cup, presented by Monsanto.

The seventh edition of this unique international curling competition will take place from 13-16 January at the Servus Credit Union Place in St Albert, Alberta. The event, which has often been compared to golf's Ryder Cup, will see six teams from North America competing against six teams from the rest of the world in various games over the four days - regular Team curling, Mixed Doubles, Singles, Mixed Skins and Skins matches.

Like golf's Ryder Cup, each segment awards points for wins (or ties), with the first side to reach 200 points declared the winner. Currently, North America and Team World are tied on three wins apiece since the inaugural Continental Cup was contested in 2002 in Regina.

Representing Team World will be teams skipped by Scotland's David Murdoch from Lockerbie, Norway's Thomas Ulsrud of Oslo, Sweden's Niklas Edin from Karlstad, China's Bingyu Wang of Harbin, Germany's Andrea Schöpp of Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Switzerland's Mirjam Ott from Davos.

The captain for Team World is 2002 Olympic gold medallist Pål Trulsen from Norway while Sweden's Peja Lindholm, a three-time world champion, is the coach, the same positions they held when directing Team World to victory at the 2008 Continental Cup in Camrose, Alberta.

Ulsrud earned a silver medal at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, losing the final to Canada's Kevin Martin. In a first for the Continental Cup, Murdoch, a two-time world champion, will be skipping an international team with Switzerland's Ralph Stöckli and Simon Strübin playing third and lead respectively and Germany's Andreas Lang as second. Edin is reigning European champion.

Wang, the 2010 Olympic bronze medallist, won the 2009 Mount Titlis World Women's Championship. Schöpp is the defending world champion, her second such title, after winning the 2010 Ford World Women's Curling Championship. Ott is a two-time Olympic silver medallist and finished fourth at the 2010 Olympics.



MEDIA RELEASE

Team North America will be represented by four teams from Canada - skipped by Edmonton's Kevin Martin and Kevin Koe, Calgary's Cheryl Bernard and Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones and two teams from the United States - skipped by Pete Fenson of Bemidji, Minnesota and Erika Brown, who now lives in Oakville, Ontario but is formerly from Madison, Wisconsin.

Their captain will be Ontario's Neil Harrison of Newmarket, Ontario, a former world champion, while the coach will be three-time Brier (Canadian Men's Championship) winner and two-time world champion Rick Lang of Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Martin, a four-time Brier winner, is the reigning Olympic gold medallist while Koe won the 2010 Capital One World Men's Curling Championship in Italy. Bernard took the silver medal at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, while Jones is a four-time Scotties Tournament of Hearts (Canadian Women's Championship) winner and 2008 Ford World Women's champion. Fenson, the 2006 Olympic bronze medallist, and Brown are the current US national champions.

The Canadian sports channel TSN will provide exclusive and extensive coverage of the event, which is being sponsored for the first time by World Financial Group.

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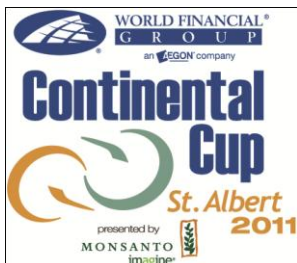
NOTES TO EDITORS

- At the inaugural Cup in Regina, Canada in 2002, Team North America pulled out an incredible last stone victory when Canada's Kevin Martin defeated Sweden's Peja Lindholm in the final men's Skins game to win 207-193.
- In 2003, Team Europe (later to become known as Team World) turned the tables with a 208-179 victory in Thunder Bay.
- In 2004 in Medicine Hat, before a record four-day crowd of 42,317, it was North America's turn again, notching a 228-172 win.
- The 2006 renewal, staged in Chilliwack, British Columbia, featured all of the medal-winning teams from the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy, as Team Europe pulled even with a 229-171 victory.
- In 2007, the Cup returned to Medicine Hat, and once again, North America prevailed, 290-110, this time clinching the Cup in record fashion on Saturday evening, prior to Sunday's final women's and men's Skins games.
- The 2008 Continental Cup was contested in Camrose, Alberta and won by Team World, 208-192, which evened the series at three victories apiece, as each side continued to prevail in alternate years.
- In 2005 and 2009, no Continental Cup events were scheduled due to the curling trials which qualified Canada's teams for the Olympic Winter Games.

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The World Financial Group Continental Cup is being staged in a new time slot this year. Previously it took place in late November or early December. It is a joint venture between the World Curling Federation, Canadian Curling Association and United States Curling Association.

Full Event Passes with guaranteed seating go on sale starting October 15th. Priced at 275 CAD (including service charges and GST), tickets can be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at +1-780-451-8000 or online at <http://seasonofchampions.ca>

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TEAM NORTH AMERICA - MEN

MARTIN (CAN)

Fourth	Kevin Martin* (Skip)
Third	John Morris
Second	Marc Kennedy
First/lead	Ben Hebert

KOE (CAN)

Fourth	Kevin Koe (Skip)
Third	Blake MacDonald
Second	Carter Rycroft*
First/lead	Nolan Thiessen

Fensen (USA)

Fourth	Pete Fenson (Skip)
Third	Shawn Rojeski
Second	Joe Polo
First/lead	Ryan Brunt

TEAM NORTH AMERICA - WOMEN

BERNARD (CAN)

Fourth	Cheryl Bernard (Skip)
Third	Susan O'Connor
Second	Carolyn Darbyshire
First/lead	Cori Morris

JONES (CAN)

Fourth	Jennifer Jones* (Skip)
Third	Kaitlyn Lawes
Second	Jill Officer*
First/lead	Dawn Askin*

BROWN (USA)

Fourth	Erika Brown** (Skip)
Third	Nina Spatola
Second	Ann Swisshelm
First/lead	Laura Hallisey

Team Captain	Neil Harrison (CAN)
Team Coach	Rick Lang (CAN)

TEAM WORLD - MEN

MURDOCH (SCO/SUI/GER)

Fourth	David Murdoch** (Skip) (SCO)
Third	Ralph Stöckli <i>Stoekli</i> (SUI)
Second	Andreas Lang (GER)
First/lead	Simon Strübin <i>Struebin</i> (SUI)

ULSRUD (NOR)

Fourth	Thomas Ulsrud* (Skip)
Third	Torger Nergård* <i>Nergaard</i>
Second	Christoffer Svae*
First/lead	Håvard Vad Petersson* <i>Haavard</i>

EDIN (SWE)

Fourth	Niklas Edin* (Skip)
Third	Sebastian Kraupp
Second	Fredrik Lindberg
First/lead	Viktor Kjäll <i>Kjaell</i>

TEAM WORLD - WOMEN

WANG (CHN)

Fourth	Bingyu Wang* (Skip)
Third	Yin Liu*
Second	Qingshuang Yue *
First/lead	Yan Zhou*

SCHÖPP (GER)

Fourth	Andrea Schöpp* (Skip) <i>Schoepp</i>
Third	Monika Wagner*
Second	Corinna Scholz
First/lead	Stella Heiss

OTT (SUI)

Fourth	Mirjam Ott** (Skip)
Third	Carmen Schäfer* <i>Schaefer</i>
Second	Carmen Küng <i>Kueng</i>
First/lead	Janine Greiner**

Team Captain	Pål Trulsen*** (NOR)
Team Coach	Peja Lindholm** (SWE)

*one-time Cup winner / **two-time Cup winner / ***three-time Cup winner (as player &/or captain/coach)