

Provincial Curling Bronze for Ernie Studer School Girls Team

March 14, 2011

The Sr. Girls Curling team from Ernie Studer School in Loon Lake won a bronze medal in provincial competition at the Callie Curling Club in Regina this past weekend. “They had a rough start,” said principal Brad Freyman. “They lost their first two games on the Friday evening and dropped to the C event. It was a triple knockout tournament, so they couldn’t afford another loss.”

The young team (composed of skip Alison Ingram, grade 10; third Chennoa Tracey, grade 11; second Natasha Hirshfeld, grade 10; and lead Jaida Freyman, grade 9) opened with an 8-1 loss against the eventual gold medal team from Watrous. Dropping to the B event they then lost a squeaker to Tisdale. Although they were up by two coming home, Tisdale managed a draw for three and the win.

“The girls handled the losses well,” said Freyman, “and started the Saturday games in a relaxed frame of mind.”

Saturday would turn out to be a marathon.

Backs to the wall they started the day against Langham, the team that they had finished second to in Regionals. “We like to steal, and we stole 5 against them,” said Alison Ingram.

After the 9-2 win, they met Campbell Collegiate from Regina. Tied 3-3 after six ends the teams traded points in the seventh and eighth ends to force an extra end. Laying one on the four foot, Alison put up a nice guard on her first rock. Campbell missed their draw and it was all over, 5-4, and the girls were into the semi-final against A-side winner Watrous.

“It was 3-2 for Watrous after five. We were pushing them hard, but they stole two in the sixth end, which made it 5-2,” said Alison.

“What was going through your heads then girls?” I asked.

“We were thinking we’d better start making some shots,” Chennoa laconically answered.

This remark is indicative of a very healthy attitude towards sports – one shared by great winning teams. As coach Dexter Slugoski said: “They’re a good team: every one of them takes everything they’re involved in very seriously and brings their best efforts forth. At the same time they’re quite open-minded, and very capable of putting things into perspective.”

The girls took one in the seventh. “We should have blanked the end, but we hit and rolled in,” said Alison, “and in the eighth they just ran us out of rocks.”

Watrous went on to win gold in the final 9-4 against Weyburn, and the girls from Ernie Studer came up against Tisdale (for the second time) in the bronze medal game. By this time it was 5:00 in the afternoon, the girls had played three games and had eaten very little since breakfast.

“We were a little tired, said Alison, “...and we decided to play a guard game because we like to steal.”

With the hammer the girls went up two in the first. The second end was blanked and then Tisdale scored four points in the third. “And,” the girls said laughing, “we thought WHOA, HOW DID WE LET THAT HAPPEN???”

In the fourth end Alison drew for two with her last rock to tie the score at 4-4. In the fifth, with Tisdale lying three, Alison froze to their stones for shot, forcing Tisdale to draw for one. Score after five ends, 5-4 Tisdale, and the Loon Lake team happy to have dodged a bullet.

And then came the sixth end. “I, uh, raised their rock in for shot,” said Alison. “My contact lens had fallen out and I put it back in, but not in the right place, and it was somewhere on my eyeball, but not in the right place when I made the shot and I, um, kind of ...missed the broom.”

6-4 Tisdale. With the hammer in the seventh end the girls had an open draw for two and made the shot. 6-6 coming home, Tisdale with the hammer, guards everywhere, the front of the house crowded, no clear path in and Alison makes the shot. The shot of the century. The ‘move over Amber Holland’ shot.

The broom was placed about a foot from the boards on the right hand side. “I sat in the hack thinking T-line weight and slow rotation to give it a big curl,” said Alison. The rock just missed the guard (by less than a centimetre), came in with a big hook, and finished on the button.

“We swept really, really hard,” said Natasha. “It was good judgment on the sweepers’ part,” said four of the parents. “They stopped for a second, and a coach from a mixed team was yelling ‘sweep it hard, sweep it hard’ and when they stopped, he yelled ‘NO YOU’RE GOING TO LOSE IT!’ and they just kept pounding it ‘til it slipped past that guard.”

A full team effort that shot: the skip threw the rock, the third called the line and the sweepers delivered the package. Tisdale called a time-out, and then tried to take out the rock and wrecked on the guard. Bronze medal, Ernie Studer School, Loon Lake, “and there was a screamy happy dance going on in our heads,” said the girls, but “they were really very humble about it,” said principal Brad Freyman. “For me to go there and come back with a medal was personally, quite a bit of a high,” said Slugoski, “but I felt very happy for the girls more than anything. I’m very happy to have shared this success with them.”

And then, after the medal ceremony, they drove to Saskatoon, where three of the four, Chennoa and Natasha (guitars) and Jaida (vocals), performed with the Ernie Studer Band at TCU place for Telemiracle. At 1:00AM. You play all day, and then you play and then, regardless of the results, you just win.



lead Jaida Freyman, second Natasha Hirshfeld, third Chennoa Tracey and skip Alison Ingram
Photo Credit: Jody Freyman



(top row, left to right, Wyatt Kosmyнка, Natasha Hirshfeld, Director Terry Paley, Brooke Brinsky, and Kody Studer-Starnes. Kneeling from left to right are Chennoa Tracey, Lisa Levesque-Osiowy and Jaida Freyman
Photo by Jody Freyman