

Monday, Dec. 10, 2012

The Daily Double



The official publication of the 2013 USA Curling Mixed Doubles National Championship



Team USA!!

Pete and Maureen Stolt of Plymouth, Minn., will represent the U.S. at the upcoming World Mixed Doubles Championship after running through the 2013 USA Curling Mixed Doubles National Championship undefeated.

"I don't know if it has sunk in yet, but we're both really excited to represent the U.S. We've got a lot of work to do, but we're going to work hard to bring home a medal this year and do our best to represent the U.S. at Worlds," said Pete Stolt, 34, who owns Shot Rock Curling Supplies with his wife.

The Stolts defeated Andy Jukich (Duluth, Minn.) and Tina Kelly (Bemidji, Minn.), 11-4, in the championship final tonight at the Capital Curling Club.

"It is very exciting to be able to represent a country. It's the first time for us to be Team USA instead of Team Stolt. It's a really good feeling," Maureen Stolt said.

This is the first mixed doubles national title for the Stolts, who curl out of the St. Paul Curling Club. After finishing the round robin with a 5-0 record, the Stolts won their semifinal earlier today and clinched the title against Jukich and Kelly with consistent play throughout the week.

"We started out fast but couldn't maintain," Jukich said. "Gotta give all the credit to Pete and Maureen. They controlled the game the whole way. They were in complete control," Jukich said. "It's tough to win when they're making all their shots. We struggled a little bit ... it was tough."

Jukich converted a runback for three points in the opening end but allowed the Stolts to score two and then steal three to take a 5-3 lead - a lead in which the new national champions would hold throughout the rest of the match.

After giving up another steal in the fourth end, Jukich and Kelly opted for the stationary stone on the button instead of the hammer and the Stolts made them pay for it. Pete Stolt used the final stone to earn three more points when he bumped out the stationary rock.

After Jukich was only able to muster a single in the sixth, the Stolts turned to defense in the seventh with Pete Stolt moving to throw the hits with the middle three rocks.

"We just wanted to keep it open and make sure we had a chance to get to the 4-foot to get our one point and just come home and play it clean," Maureen Stolt said about the team's strategy in the seventh.

When Kelly inadvertently removed the center guard, the house was left open. With the two rocks they needed already in scoring position, Maureen Stolt threw her final stone through the house with the win locked up.

"We just wanted to stay focused," Pete Stolt said. "We knew we were in a good spot but it's mixed doubles and we know that anything can happen. That sixth end all of a sudden they were looking at a potential for three or four for a second there if we don't make something. You can never let up."



Team USA: Peter and Maureen Stolt

Final placement:

1. Pete Stolt-Maureen Stolt
2. Andy Jukich-Tina Kelly
3. Scott Olson-Teri Olson
3. Tim Doherty-Carol Strojny
5. Brady Clark-Cristin Clark
5. Barry Ivy-Britt Rjanikov



Silver medalists (l-r) Tina Kelly and Andy Jukich with gold medalists Maureen Stolt and Pete Stolt.

RESULTS:**Quarterfinals:**

*Jukich-Kelly 421 021 XX — 10
 Ivy-Rjanikov 000 100 XX — 1

Doherty-Strojny 210 400 01 — 8
 *Clark-Clark 001 011 20 — 5

Semifinals:

Stolt-Stolt 102 101 10 — 6
 *Doherty-Strojny 010 010 02 — 4

*Olson-Olson 110 201 00 — 5
 Jukich-Kelly 004 020 21 — 9

Final:

Stolt-Stolt 023 130 2X — 11
 *Jukich-Kelly 300 001 0X — 4
 *last rock in first end

Playing for Elizabeth

In May we lost a great young curler from Duluth, Minn. Elizabeth Marie Busche won the 2012 Junior National Championships and represented the U.S. at the 2012 World Junior Championships in Sweden in March. Elizabeth died at home on May 3, 2012, after a short battle with cancer at age 19.



Elizabeth, who was a member of the Duluth Curling Club, also was an active participant in mixed doubles and played in its national championship several times. This editor remembers meeting Elizabeth when she played mixed doubles in Two Harbors with her father, Keane, in 2009, and was the youngest competitor in the event.

Andy Jukich teamed up with Busche to win the Minnesota state mixed championship and went on to represent Minnesota at the 2011 U.S. Mixed National Championship in Midland, Mich. This week Jukich and teammate Tina Kelly are wearing EB logos on their uniforms in memory of Busche, a curler who was taken from us far too early.



Elizabeth's junior teammates are selling the patches for \$3 each with the proceeds going toward cancer research. Contact the [Duluth Curling Club](#) to purchase one or to learn more.



Andy Jukich proudly wears the EB logo on his uniform this week in memory of former teammate and friend, Elizabeth Busche, who passed away at age 19 from cancer.

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Thank you, Bismarck!

A big thank you to the countless volunteers who worked around the clock to ensure great ice, officiating, timing, scoring, and many other behind-the-scenes tasks to put on a great national championship for the athletes and fans. A special thank you to our co-chairmen Tom Pomonis and John Kram.



Chairman Tom Pomonis



The officials



The ice men





Pete and Maureen Stolt sweep a stone into the rings during the championship final against Andy Jukich (left) and Tina Kelly.

*Endless miles of sweeping
 Countless stones measured
 Too many stationary rock
 placements to add
 Time in Bismarck: Priceless*



Scott and Teri Olson sporting the lucky pink shirts in semifinal action.



The defending champs Brady and Cristin Clark sweeping hard during quarterfinal play.

Thank you to our sponsors:



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