



RITA BOYER

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada



Winning ladies' rink of skip Rita Boyer (left), third Lucy Klatchuk, second Elsie Norton and lead Jennifer Williscroft accept Granco Real Estate trophy from Norm Hudson.



GP Ladies Open champions: skip Rita Boyer (left), third Marcy Maxwell, second Sandra Hatton and lead Joanne Balderston.

Boyer wins GP Ladies Open in an extra end

Defending Grande Prairie Ladies Open bonspiel champion Pat Kimble took her title down to the last rock in the 11th end against Rita Boyer's rink last night. And missed.

With her final rock of the end, Boyer drew to the eight-foot circle to count one: good enough to win the extra end and the game. Kimble, with the hammer, kissed Boyer's counting rock and slid through the house.

"I thought it was toes up after the eighth", said Boyer at the end of the 7-6 A-side game. After Kimble, skipping the Canadian Fracmaster rink, tied the game at three after the sixth end, she counted two in the seventh and another in the eighth to take a 6-3 lead. Boyer rallied with one in the ninth and two in the tenth to send the game into extra ends.

"It was tense", said Boyer. "I thought she (Kimble) had control. But you never know until that old last rock comes along".

Taking third in the A, sponsored by Norwood Esso, was Diane Wilson and fourth, Crystal Bowman, both of Grande Prairie.

In the B event, skip Betty Sinclair of Grande Prairie drew to the eight-foot circle in the tenth end to count two and break the 4-4 deadlock with the Gayell Slater rink of the city. Slater drew to the four-foot to count one and win 5-4.

Sharon LeJeune finished third and Genie Krupka fourth in this event, sponsored by Edgar and Cissell Trucking.

Gladys Plishka of Grande Prairie scored one in the sixth, seventh and eighth end and stole one in the ninth to down the Marilyn Baird rink 8-3 in the C event.

Judy Kozak took third spot in the C, followed by Lois Taylor. The event was sponsored by Dr. Rick Walker.

In the D, Sarah Vaage of Edmonton took her game against Sheryl Schneider of Wembley into an extra end. The Edmonton skip won that game 9-8.

In this event, sponsored by Adam Crane, Ella May Sawers finished third and Shawna Perry, fourth.

The real shootout came in the consolation round, which pitted Zone 3 champions Marg Johns and Marie Martin. Martin drew first blood with a single in the first end but Johns rebounded with two in the second. Martin came back with three in the third and one in the fourth. Johns took one in the fifth and Martin two in the sixth. Johns counted three in the seventh and Martin three in the eighth. Johns came back with four in the ninth to take a 13-10 lead. In the tenth end and with the house clear, Martin ran out of rocks.

The event was sponsored by Larry's Sport Shop.

Miriam was hot

By RANDY POULIS
Herald-Tribune staff

When Miriam Detwiler sets her sights during a competitive curling game, she almost always finds the mark.

That was evident Sunday at the Grande Prairie Curling Club as she led her rink to winning the senior ladies curling berth for the Zone 8 contingent heading to the Alberta Winter Games.

"It's a really good start for us," said Miriam, who also counts Agatha Vavrek, Margaret Hennigar and Velma Edgecomb as key ingredients to their winning rink.

"We must be really competitive curlers because in club curling we're blown out."

A mystery the team dealt with last year too as they finished runner-up in the provincial senior ladies championship while posting a less-than-enviable club mark.

Producing the competitive edge is also nothing new for Rita Boyer, who had to be beaten back twice by Detwiler as the two skips cracked rocks three times on the weekend.

Detwiler won the A Side of the Games playdown with a 9-7 win over Boyer Saturday night. After Boyer eliminated Fran Kreutzer 11-4 in the B Side the stage was set with Boyer needing to defeat Detwiler twice to win the playdown.

Boyer started out doing no wrong in the first match as she roared out of the gate with a 12-1 six-end victory. But, in the rubber Detwiler



had the edge en route to 10-7 win.

"We had really good game last night too," adds Detwiler. "And then this morning (Sunday) . . . none of us went to church so we didn't win the game."

In a preview to what could be a senior men's district confrontation, Herman Kreutzer of Slave Lake claimed the Games playdown by defeating Herman Schwindt of the city 8-7 in an extra end.

Kreutzer, with the same lineup featuring Don Whiller, Geoff Parlby and Peter Czelenski qualified for the senior men's district two weekend's ago from Zone 2. Schwindt qualified for the Senior Men's districts representing Zone 3 along with Doug Thornton of Grande Prairie.

"I think by winning here we may have overdone it," joked Kreutzer afterwards.

His fate at the districts may still be unknown but he has opened the door to provincial competition at the Alberta Winter Games. Both Kreutzer and Detwiler will represent the Peace Zone at the Games in Edson, Feb. 26 to March 2.

Locals aim at Edmonton rink

By RANDY POULIS
Herald-Tribune staff

Names like Patti Kimble, Della Thorpe, Susan Godberson, Rita Boyer and Miriam Detwiler pack a lot of punch around local curling circles.

And with good reason, they are among the most competitive lady skips in the Peace country and have all set their sights on an Edmontonian by the name of Sarah Vaage.

Vaage is the returning champion of the Grande Prairie Ladies Open which took to the ice of the Grande Prairie Curling Club last night and continues through Sunday. Knocking the outsider from her present perch

ranks high among the 58 other rinks and particularly to Boyer.

The city rink, which includes Fay Gaboury, Emmi Halterman and Pat Barnett, lost the A semi-final to Vaage last year after winning the Open two years ago. Vaage's triumph was on the last rock and Boyer would like to replay that match this weekend.

"I hope so," says Boyer with a pang of anticipation. "Actually, I should have beat her last year."

Should weekend events withdraw that card from Boyer's sleeve the Grande Prairie skip hopes it will be found with another local competitor.

"We have a lot of good local teams and I would think it (championship)

would go to a local team this year," she explains, overlooking the presence of her sister Betty Fenton.

out," says Marcy Balderston, third on sister-in-law Susan Godberson's entry.

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Moore called all the right shots en route to championship

Moore nails GP Open title

By RANDY POULIS
Herald-Tribune staff

Heather Moore knows how to build a house without a hammer.

Just ask Rita Boyer. Boyer watched Moore steal eight consecutive points for an 8-4 victory in the A final of the Grande Prairie Ladies Open Bonspiel yesterday.

"We went to sleep and didn't wake up for six ends," said a perplexed Boyer after conceding the decision despite laying four in the sixth end. "Those girls really curled well."

"We didn't do very good with the hammer all weekend," said Moore of her foursome of Karen Gould, Janet Gummer and Laurie Rieger. "We did better without it."

Just how much better was evident after the coin toss as Moore's rink stole one in the first, a pair in the second, three in the third and singles in the fourth and fifth ends.

"We got some good takeouts, a couple of good rolls and by the time it was Rita's turn we just capped them," said Moore of the contest that saw her claim her first Open title as a skip.

While Moore's rink curled up a storm, Boyer's rink of Fay Gaboury, Emmi Halterman and Pat Barnett found no refuge from the rain until the sixth end.

"That third end (when Moore stole a critical three points) I never even had a shot," said Boyer, who won the Open title two years ago. "I've curled many games but never when I couldn't even get shot (rock). All I could hope for was to get second shot."

A testament to the strength of Moore's front end was the fact that when it came her turn to throw, the 30-year-old was almost always examining how to toss up the best guard. Something which she did flawlessly.

Even by executing a near-perfect raised takeout to score four in the sixth in the all-city rink final, Boyer was not rating her chances highly of catching Moore before the bell in the eighth end.

"I told Heather if she missed that rock (in the sixth) that I'd quit," mused Boyer. "There was just no way we could catch them. Not against them, not against the way they were curling. I could see stealing one or two, but not four."

A decision which allowed Moore to literally

steal her first Open title.

Although Lorraine Bauer of Fairview spoiled the notion that the afternoon's four-event and consolation finals would feature all Grande Prairie rinks, she was at a loss to prevent the better portion of the \$3,300 in prizes going to local curlers.

Bauer lost the B event to the city's Betty Sinclair 5-2 as Sinclair scored singles in the first, second, third, fifth and sixth ends.

Marie Martin needed to execute a perfect raised takeout with the hammer to claim a 7-6 win over Miriam Detwiler in the all-Grande Prairie C event final. Lying second shot to a Detwiler rock in the four-foot, Martin coolly raised her own from the eight-foot to bump Detwiler back through the house.

Lucy Klatchuk of the city rallied from a 7-3 deficit after three ends to force Jarron Tremblay into an extra-end and went on to win the D event 9-8.

Grande Prairie's Patti Kimble put deuces up wildly on the scoreboard in winning the consolation final over Lois Taylor 8-0. Kimble scored two in each of the first four ends for an 8-0 lead before Taylor washed her hands of the match.

Boyer masters seniors' game

By RANDY POULIS

Herald-Tribune staff

After returning empty-handed three times from provincial ladies' championships in the early 1970's, Rita Boyer is heading back for another try — as a senior lady.

In her first year of senior ladies' curling, Boyer took her rink of Agatha Vavrek, Marg Henniger and Pat Barnett through the field at the Peace Ladies Curling Association district playdowns undefeated last weekend.

"This seniors curling, I don't know about it," laughed Boyer yesterday after running out of scoreboard against Verna Block of Spirit River in a 17-8 victory. "It's a whole different ball game."

The difference didn't seem to bother Boyer much as the Grande Prairie skip took to her home ice and led her rink to a 5-0 record with wins of 10-2 over Peace River's Fran Copeland, 9-3 against Grande Prairie's Lucy Klatchuk, 14-4 over Grimshaw's Mary Diebert and 7-6 over High Prairie's Alice Monahan.

The win that Boyer felt crucial in her rink's success was against Klatchuk Saturday morning. Klatchuk, who is also marking her first entry into senior ladies' play, won the B berth and both city rinks are off to the provincials, Feb. 5-9 in Edmonton.

Klatchuk ended the round robin with a 4-1 record while Block was 2-3, Diebert 2-3, Copeland 1-4 and Monahan 1-4.

BIG WIN OVER KLATCHUK

"It seemed once I beat her, I kind of relaxed," said Boyer. I was more concerned curling against her than anyone else."

Both Boyer and Klatchuk count members of Miriam Detwiler's three-time district champion rink on their respective foursomes and that too, was expected to raise



RITA BOYER
... likes the new game

some fireworks.

"I was out for blood," joked second Velma Edgecomb, who after curling with Detwiler now joins third Louise Giles and lead Doris Hamerl on the Klatchuk rink.

On the other side of the coin, both Vavrek and Henniger were also one-time members of Detwiler's rink.

Now, all three are heading back to the provincial competition and the Alberta crowns that have so far eluded them.

Boyer, who is still trying to get used to the senior game, remains uncertain of what to expect at the provincial level.

"I really don't know, this being my first year in seniors," she explained. "There are some really experienced curlers there and I know Lucy has some good curlers behind her."

But both Boyer and Klatchuk, who never got past districts in ladies' play, are willing to give this new-fangled thing a try.

There's something nice about being a rookie skip again.

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Ladies aware of Thistle's barbs

By RANDY POULIS
Herald-Tribune staff

The thistle is a fine flower to rest one's gaze upon, but it's those little barbs that can really get you.

And for the Grande Prairie Curling Club's Karen Gould, Linda Graber, Rita Boyer and Lucy Klatchuk, steering clear of the barbs is the order of the day at the Thistle Curling Club in Edmonton.

Gould and Graber are both skipping their rinks into the provincial Scott Tournament of Hearts while Boyer and Klatchuk take their foursomes into action in the Alberta Senior Ladies championships.

The barbs can come in many forms — nerves, the unlucky roll, misreading the ice, ad infinitum — and they will all be their tonight when the championships get underway at 7:30 p.m.

Drawing first blood by sticking the barb into an opponent during the opener is something that weighs heavy on all four skips.

"That first game always helps in any competition," says Boyer who, skips her way into her first seniors' provincial competition aside teammates Agatha Vavrek, Margaret Hennigar and Pat Barnett. "I really hope we do well in that first game."

Doing well means handling the pressure of the competition and not letting the level of curling cause a costly oversight.

"You have to stay cool," explains Graber whose foursome of Diane Wilson, Janet Gummer and Belle Maksymetz have been through the provincial windmill before. "You can't let it get to you that you're at the provincials. Our strategy is to play it one game at a time, one rock at a time and one end at a time, and just curl the way we know how."

No less so for Gould's foursome of Marcy Balderston, Tina Listhaeghe and Jarron Savill. Although the rink boasts an average age of slightly less than 24 years, all have been on the provincial stage before.

"It helps that we've been there before," says Gould. "The format's a little different (changed to a triple-knockout from a round robin) and I think that will be better for all the teams involved."

"You just have to go out and curl well and you can't make any little mistakes mentally, you have to stay really, really sharp mentally."

And you may need something a little special to thwart a thistle's embrace.

"It takes a little luck too," says Boyer who was a competitor at the ladies provincials three times in the 1970's. "You have to get a lucky roll once in awhile. It releases the pressure (rather than letting it build up after a miss), you can stay loose."

Gould and Graber will be facing Carolyn Revet of Lloydminster and Edmonton's Jane Kinders and Debbie Shermack from the Northern Alberta Curling Association. From the south the entrants in the race for the provincial crown are Calgary's Jill Ferguson, Sandy Bell of Red Deer and Donna Nowochin of Medicine Hat.

Klatchuk's foursome of Louise Giles, Velma Edgecomb and Sister Doris Hamerl will join Boyer in the senior field and they will be trying to get past Kay Carmichael of Sherwood Park and Norma Sivers of Edmonton.

Perhaps the toughest competition in the seniors will come from the southern district with three-time provincial Senior Ladies' champ Bea Mayer of Calgary and Simonne Flynn of Medicine Hat, who won the



Tina Listhaeghe (delivering rock) and Marcy Balderston will join skip Karen Gould in this evening's all-important first game at the Scott Tournament of Hearts.

ladies provincial crown in 1969.

The Peace ladies can take heart, there are no past Hearts winners among the field leaving it wide open for the eight rinks involved. And Graber, making her fifth appearance at the Scott tournament, is the most experienced of all the skips at this level of competition.

Which doesn't mean Graber has any better odds with a thistle than the others, as was proven Tuesday when Linda Moore (1985 world champion) of Vancouver was ousted by Victoria's Pat Sanders 11-2 in seven ends in Fort Nelson. Sanders moves onto the national Hearts championship, in Lethbridge Feb. 28-March 7. Joining her will be Helen Tousinault of Lavolette, Que. making her second straight appearance at the nationals.

Somebody has to keep track of the money

Rita Boyer begins new post after 19 years with racing association

By DAN TOTH
Herald-Tribune staff

Thousands and thousands of dollars have passed through her hands at the racetrack in the last 19 years, but Rita Boyer isn't a die-hard gambler.

As the former mutuels manager at Evergreen Park



Rita Boyer (right) and Emi Halterman have been busy getting accustomed to the new betting system.

HORSE RACING

during the horse racing season, Boyer has overseen the betting operation there since the early 1970s.

Every dollar bet during that period has been counted and double counted by Boyer in an operation that works much like a small bank.

"If I had all the money I've handled for the Grande Prairie Racing Association, I could retire in the Trump Plaza," Boyer says with a laugh. "We've gone through a lot of money and paid out a lot over the years."

In those 19 years, Boyer has kept track of each race and the money that was bet and handed to each of the tellers.

"I was in charge of the mutuels staff — hiring — and we were in charge of the banking, balancing, program sales and promotion sales," Boyer says. She describes the job of balancing the track books as "tricky", but it's something that the mutuels manager has to do each night.

The mother of three boys and grandmother of another five, Boyer says the racetrack scene has been like a family over the years. That is just one of the reasons it is a job she's loved.

"People who come from Edmonton or Calgary or other points in Alberta tell us that they just love coming here because of the hospitality and the way everybody works together and gets together," Boyer says. "We've got 80 to a 100 volunteers working here and it doesn't matter whether you're an owner, a lawyer or a tractor operator — or whatever — I find they all work together so well."

NEW POSITION

But this year, Boyer is moving up to a new position as

track officer, a federal government job within the Department of Agriculture. It means she'll be leaving the money end of the operation behind. Taking over for Boyer as mutuels manager is Emi Halterman, a teller at the track for the past 10 years and Boyer's close friend.

In her new position, Boyer will post-audit the race prices and ensure that all bettors and each level of government involved are dealt with fairly.

Boyer is also involved in ensuring that photo finishes take place after close races and that post-race urine tests are performed on winning horses to guarantee all race results are authentic. She is, in short, the gambler's watchdog.

A Grande Prairie native, Boyer also works at Trax — a local off-track betting facility — as a supervisor.

Boyer says that the start of the new racing season — which begins tonight at Evergreen Park — is the perfect time for someone to move into her position. The betting operation has moved into a new era of computerized wagering beneath the grandstand.

"Everything is done by machine and everything is computed at one end and by the Federal Department of Agriculture and the Alberta Racing Commission — they're all represented," Boyer says. "What we do at one end has to balance with what they have at the other."

Boyer has fond memories of the "old days" when a trailer was used for pari-mutuel betting while the races were in town at the old fairgrounds near Crystal Ridge before moving to Evergreen Park.

And the Grande Prairie Racing Association has come a long way since then with computerized betting and all wagering taking place indoors beneath the grandstand.

But for Boyer, who begins her new position tonight, no matter how many changes take place at the track, she'll still be doing what she likes among the friends she has made over nearly two decades at the track.

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