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Notable athletes demonstrate stick curling

By: None

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Three-time Brier champ and former Brandonite Nolan Thiessen digs into the ice with his broom to guide a stone into the house at the Brandon Curling Club on Friday morning. Thiessen teamed up with former Curling Canada chairman Resby Coutts in a game of stick curling against the reigning stick curling Canadian Champions Tom and Rae Campbell for a stick

Several dozen curling fans took in a stick curling demonstration and clinic at the Brandon Curling Club on Friday morning.

While the clinic and demo were meant to give those in attendance a better understanding of the game, it certainly didn't hurt that one of the four main curlers on the ice included three-time Brier winner and former Brandonite Nolan Thiessen, who was the lead for the rinks of Kevin Koe and Pat Simmons.



Three-time Brier champ and former Brandonite Nolan Thiessen watches a curling stone move down the fourth rink at the Brandon Curling Club on Friday morning. Thiessen teamed up with former Curling Canada chairman Resby Coutts in a game of stick curling against the reigning stick curling Canadian Champions Tom and Rae Campbell for a stick game demonstration and a clinic afterward at the Brandon rink. (Matt Goerzen/The Brandon Sun)

Thiessen joined former Curling Canada chairman Resby Coutts and the reigning Canadian stick curling champions Rae and Tom Campbell for the demonstration game.

Stick curling is very much like regular curling, though the rules are somewhat different. The sport is comprised of teams of two, and is gaining prominence in Canada, especially among seniors who have mobility issues.

According to the Canadian Stick Curling Association, one member of each team stays at each end of the rink and must not cross centre ice. The two delivering curlers alternately deliver six stones per end, using a delivery stick — either from a standing or sitting (wheelchair) position. Sweeping is not allowed between the hog lines.

In case of a tie, an extra end is played, with each player delivering three stones. The curlers then exchange roles at the midpoint of an extra end to complete the end — which was demonstrated on Friday morning by the four participants.

For anyone interested in trying their hand at stick curling, the Brandon Curling Club

offers two-person stick curling on Monday afternoons.

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