

Hello all;

With the progression of our sport everyone involved needs to remember a few things regardless of who is or is not playing. The key element that needs to be contained within any ultimate pursuit is perspective....a balanced perspective. There is a need for people to understand that the players who play this sport are made of a number of things....and not be defined by one or who they are.

This player among the number of other pursuits, dreams, past times, or experiences happen to be a curler. Not a wheelchair curler or able bodied curler, just a curler; period....and when they get to curl, they get to wear the Maple Leaf. They have the greatest honor, no privilege of representing CANADA!

However, being a curler does not define the person...nor does the slim difference between winning and losing. They bring the best they have on game day....try as hard as possible to perform to their potential....and is all about striving for excellence....the winning and losing aside. To get the best out of themselves in those moments that matter the most....there needs to be calm, quiet spirit and mind available to assist them reach their potential and this includes those who are quick to judge. With this if any portion of their life no matter how great or small is in a state of chaos or turmoil...achieving excellence...or performance on demand will be greatly inhibited if not impossible. Losing in one place today should better enable them to win in another or in the future. Thus we should not place pressure upon our Canadian players but support them in their Endeavour.....regardless of outcome because they nor us can control that; it has already been decided we just don't know what it is yet.

To attain a level of play...and performance that is second to none, to do that they will need a healthy perspective on themselves....the athlete....the team mate. Give the sport it's just due in their life....and nothing more. They CAN NOT let the sport or the winning and losing define them....as it is but a small portion of the journey.

They must be motivated....eager....energized to reclaim the winning energy when they lose.

They need to find a way for them to get the most out of themselves....and assist them in getting the most out of their team mates. The look in their eyes...the body language....the firmness of the handshake....their self esteem....their inner confidence and assurance need not be any different today than it was a year ago, last week or yesterday. They are the same athlete....actually a better athlete....who is still living the dream....still pursuing excellence....still driven to experience those moments in which every fiber of their being tells them that they are indeed alive and immersed in an experience that is most meaningful....outcome aside.

Sport more over curling, is more about the journey than it is the destination. Today, regardless of the Paralympics Worlds or otherwise the athlete will find themselves in an exceptionally balanced field of competitors. The present level of play world wide enables pretty much any athlete or team to beat any other team in any given moment. Some times the Gods of good fortune smile on us...sometimes not. Sometimes we excel, sometimes not....and sometimes our opposition simply outplays us.

But whatever the day brings....we have at least experienced the thrill of being in the moment and giving it our best. That is all there is....that is what the journey is all about. You cannot take either the winning or the losing too personal....it is after all....sport....not life and death.

To Canada, best wishes and good luck! Each year it becomes harder regardless of who is playing for Canada. We need to support Joe, Wendy, and Trevor as the support the players who matter most to journey over the next week....Jim, Darryl, Ina, Chris and of course Sonja!

Good luck, good curling and do what we have not do yet, win Worlds....silver is just no close enough!

Chris Daw