

Chapter 47

2025 FRIARS' BRIAR at Summerside, PEI. February 17 - 21.



As the 2025 Friars' Briar approached, so did looming storm warnings. Some teams arrived between Friday and Sunday storms. Other teams faced flight delays until Tuesday afternoon. Summerside was shut down by snow and wind which was gusting up to 95 kilometers per hour. The shopping mall was deserted, some restaurants were closed.

The Friars' Briar opening ceremony and game on Monday were cancelled because most of the teams were delayed. While players from four teams were waiting for the competition to arrive, they passed the time with a practice session. By Tuesday afternoon six teams were ready to play and two more played off on Tuesday evening.

Unfortunately, two teams were unable to get there, which reduced the ten-team pool down to eight. The team from Paris, ON, faced flight delays well into the week and were forced to abandon their trip. Team USA with Chris and Heidi Schwanz landed in Toronto from Minneapolis just one hour before the Delta flight that flipped upside-down on the runway. They made it as far as Montreal but returned home when they were told they couldn't get to PEI until Thursday.

Kellie McComb faced extraordinary challenges as the draw master, revising plans on the fly to ensure the teams that made the journey would still have a competition. The result was a field of two pools of four teams each playing a three-game round robin competition. A scoring system that awarded points for each end won was used instead of the usual Friars' Briar tie breaking shoot-out. Ties for individual games were allowed to stand, and the result was as follows.

Regular Round Robin Standings

The Hunter Team had a Win-Loss-Tie record of 1-1-1.

Team Baska finished with 2-0-1.

Teams Bartel and Maurice Martin both had 1-2 records.

In the other pool, David Martin was at 1-2.

Hesje was 1-1-1.

McComb was 1-1-1.

Team Toronto, Macintosh was 2-1.

The top two teams from each pool advanced to the medal round while the other teams played off in the Don Amos division. Because of the small number of teams, the Hugh Christmas event was eliminated for 2025 but will return in the future.

After the dust settled the results were as follows:

Medal Round

Gold – Hunter

Silver – Macintosh

Bronze – Baska

Fourth – McComb (Fawksey Friars)

Don Amos Event

First – David Martin

Second – Maurice Martin's Minions

Third – Bartel

Fourth – Hesje

The Summerside Curling Club in the Silver Fox Entertainment Complex provided great hospitality, including a wonderful banquet, Thursday evening. At the banquet we celebrated a successful Friars' Briar event. We recognized our host, the chair of the local planning committee, Andrew Richardson, with the Amazing Grace award. His outstanding hospitality was especially unique since he had never attended a Friars' Briar Bonspiel before. He was assisted by a committee made up of Kelly D'agostino, Rachel Campbell, Kelli McComb.

The banquet also was an occasion to remember the Friars who passed in the last year. We paused for tributes and prayers to remember Brenda Fawkes and Teenie Wall.

President Pam Bartel issued her usual President's Challenge, and this year the awards went to Friars' who brought along a family member to curl or watch. Three awards were given for Harold Hesje, who brought his wife Elaine and grandson Nils with his partner; Pam Bartel who brought her daughter, Grace and Rolf Nostrud who both curled. Two more couples were planning to curl but were kept away by the weather.

Despite some challenges the Summerside Friars' Briar was a huge success, and we are so thankful to all of the Friars who made the extra effort to travel to PEI for this historic bonspiel and represent so many regions.

Friar's Briar Registration

1. Pam Bartel, Wendall Caron Gralman, Doug Wagner, Gerald Heimpel (ON)
2. David Hunter, Russ Crawford, Paul Hunter, Arnold Badke (BC)
3. David Martin, Andy Poth, Tim Wagler, Marcus Baker (ON)
4. Ian Hopkins, Maurice Martin, Keith Metzger, Ian Hopkins, Bob Reid (ON)
5. Nancy Sherren, N. Sherren, Dan Nadon, Brian Sherren, Stan Hutchinson (ON)
6. Brian MacIntosh, John Torrance, Ralph Evans, Robin Wardlaw (ON)
7. Reuben St. Louis (Benjamin St. Louis, TBA) Ontario
8. Kellie McComb; Reuban St. Louis, Bill Martin, Andrew Richardson
9. Herold Hesje, Grace Nostrud, Rolf Nostrud, Nils Graupe

Many thanks to all who made possible this first Friars' Briar east of Ontario.