

# California kids make some Waves

BY DEREK JORY

This time of year most Manitobans dream of lying on the beach in California. Well, it turns out a few Californians find the warm weather overrated and would rather experience the frosty temperatures of a Manitoba winter.

The California Midget A Wave made their way to Brandon earlier this week to compete in the 40th annual Maple Leaf/Victoria Inn Tournament of Champions and although one might assume the players simply shut down when faced with the wind and snow, that's simply not the case.

"It's cold, but they're enjoying it, they're having a good time," said Wave head coach Quinn Quirion. "But it was about 68 (20 Celsius) when we left home, so it's a big change."

The transition from shorts and sandals to toques and mitts has been a smooth one for the team, along with the group of parents that accompanied them

from Southern California, but it wasn't the weather that inspired them to travel 3,000 kilometers to compete in the T of C.

"I had taken a team to this tournament a couple years back and that was a lot of fun and the kids had a great time," Quirion said. "Previously we competed in the Midget AA division and won the whole thing, so I figured I'd bring this team up to try it out. It's a good level of hockey, it's a lot of fun and we've been playing real well."

California started the tournament 2-0 before losing 4-2 to the Estevan Bruins Saturday morning, but rebounded with a 3-1 win over the Neebing Hawks later in the day. The Wave finished first in Pool A and will play the Flin Flon Bombers in semifinal action this morning at 7:45 at the Kinsmen Arena, with a trip to the final on the line.

The Wave have spent a lot of time in rinks during their visit, but they've also found time to explore a bit of Brandon. One of the places they visited was the



California Wave's Chandler Wilson (39) nails Braedon Cameron (7) of the Neebing Hawks on Saturday. (Tim Smith/Brandon Sun)

Brandon Regional Health Centre where they hand-delivered plush toys from Disneyland to children. The token of goodwill started the last time the Wave were here and Quirion is happy this team could keep the tradition going. "It's something I like to do

with all my teams," he said. "Spend an hour or two at a hospital and bring some toys to some kids and make their day a little better."

You'd think that between competing and spreading some cheer that the Wave, whose alumni includes Moose Jaw

Warriors netminder Joey Perricone, might enjoy a little down time, but it's all hockey all the time for this group from Orange County.

"We've been playing a lot of pond hockey on the outdoor rinks, it's been really nice," said captain Clay Blankenship, who

has two goals and two assists in four games so far this tournament. "We've been clearing off all the snow and it's been nice playing outside. We are just trying to get as much hockey as we can in while we're here."

» Brandon Sun

## In Brief

### SILLINGER DONE

NEWARK, New Jersey — New York Islanders centre Mike Sillinger will undergo season-ending hip surgery next week. The 36-year-old former Regina Pats centre hasn't played since Feb. 5 when he was forced out of the lineup by a nagging hip injury. He has 14 goals and 12 assists this NHL season.

### WILD INK SCHULTZ

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Wild defenceman Nick Schultz signed a US\$21-million, six-year contract extension Saturday, a few months before he would have hit the market as an unrestricted NHL free agent. The 25-year-old Schultz has one goal and 10 assists this season.

### CANADIAN FIFTH

WHISTLER, B.C. — Austrian Hannes Reichelt captured the World Cup men's giant slalom ski race Saturday on the course that will host the 2010 Winter Games. He won the event in a two-run time of two minutes 37.43 seconds. Calgary's John Kucera was top Canadian, placing fifth in 2:38.27.

### DAY PASSES AWAY

OXFORD, Miss. — Quarterback Herman Sidney (Eagle) Day, who spent 12 seasons in the CFL with Winnipeg, Calgary and Toronto, has died. He was 75. Day died Friday at his daughter's home in Nashville, Tenn., after a short unspecified illness, according to his alma mater University of Mississippi.

### GROSSMAN SIGNS

CHICAGO — Quarterback Rex Grossman signed a one-year contract Saturday with the NFL's Chicago Bears and will compete for the starting job. Grossman, a 2003 first-round draft pick, will have to compete for the starting job with Kyle Orton and possibly Brian Griese.

### WOODS WINS AGAIN

MARANA, Arizona — Tiger Woods holed another crucial putt on the 17th hole, sending him into the 36-hole final of the Accenture Match Play Championship for the fourth time in nine tries Saturday. Woods never trailed in the semifinal with defending champ Henrik Stenson and earned a 2-up victory. Woods will face Stewart Cink in the final.

### CREAMER TAKES TITLE

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Paula Creamer rallied to win the Fields Open for her fifth LPGA Tour title, birdieing four of the final five holes for a one-stroke victory over South Korea's Jeong Jang Saturday. Creamer closed with a bogey-free 6-under 66 for a 16-under 200 total. Calgary's Cindy Patechuk shot a 1-over 73 to finish even-par 216. Alena Sharp of Hamilton shot 2-over 74 to finish at 218. Michelle Wie had a 6-over 78 to finish 20 shots behind Creamer. » Wire Services

# Brandon to battle Minnedosa

## 2008 Tournament of Champions

the Chargers.

### Moose Jaw Warriors 4 Selkirk Fishermen 3

Mitch Holik led Moose Jaw with a goal and two assists and Cody Dunlop and Brett Yates had two points apiece.

### BANTAM AA:

The Brandon Wheat Kings battle the Moose Mountain Wild this morning at 7:45 at the Sportsplex in one semifinal, with the other pitting the Springfield Icehawks against the MacDonald Lightning at Westman Place today at 7 a.m. The winners will face off in the championship final at 1:15 this afternoon at the Optimist Arena, while the losers will play in the bronze final at 1 o'clock at the Kinsmen Arena.

### Brandon Wheat Kings 7 Seine River Snipers 1

Derek Sobkow and Tyson Holder combined for six assists and Cody Nelson had two goals for the Wheat Kings.

### Springfield Icehawks 10 Dryden Paperkings 0

Hudson Friesen scored twice

and added two assists and Erik Pushka had one goal and two helpers for the Icehawks.

### Northern Knights 5 Moose Mountain Wild 1

The Knights were led by Nicholas Kobelka who had two goals and Kody Kennedy who had a goal and an assist.

### Seine River Snipers 9 Dryden Paperkings 3

Three goals and five assists from Russell Trudeau paced the Snipers to the win.

### Springfield Icehawks 5 MacDonald Lightning 2

Eric Davis had five points and Hudson Friesen had four points for the Icehawks.

### MIDGET A:

The California Wave play the Flin Flon Bombers this morning at 7:45 at Kinsmen Arena in one semifinal, while the Holland Rockets take on the Estevan Bruins at 8 a.m. at the Optimist Arena in the other. The winners will meet in the championship final this afternoon at 3:15 at the Kinsmen Arena.

### Estevan PM & R Bruins 4 California Wave 2

Keith Goudy scored once and had two assists for Estevan.

### Holland Rockets 9 Fort William Canadians 3

Luc Robidoux, Brett Conrad and Brian Michiels had three points each for the Rockets.

### Beausejour Comets 3 Thompson King Miners 3

Brad Weedmark scored once and had an assist for the Comets, while Lorne Leslie had two assists for the Miners.

### Flin Flon Bombers 7 Varsity View 7

Flin Flon's Tyler Page led all scorers with four goals and an assist, while Varsity's Wes Gawiak had two goals and two assists of his own.

### California Wave 3 Neebing Hawks 1

Andrew Jackson, Hunter Costin and Mason Lomeli all scored for the Wave. Trevor Deleo replied for the Hawks.

### Holland Rockets 7 Rat River Warriors 6

Colin Martel and Brian Michiels had a goal and two assists each for the Rockets.

### Thompson King Miners 8

Chris Brown, Joshua White and Mike Lafreniere combined for 13 points to lead the Miners.

### Flin Flon Bombers Fort William Canadians

Game in progress at press time.

### Neebing Hawks Beausejour Comets

Game in progress at press time.

### MIDGET AA:

The Yorkton Terriers face the Notre Dame Hounds in the championship final today at Westman Place at 1:45 p.m.

### Yorkton Terriers 5 Saskatoon Aces 4

Nicholas Jonassen scored twice and had two assists to lead the Terriers to a win in the first of two semifinals.

### Notre Dame Hounds 4 St. Vital Vics 4

The Hounds advanced to the final by tying the other semifinal game. Sam Benson and Tyler Lemire combined for four assists for the Hounds.

### West End Bruins 7 Brandon Wheat Kings 5

Statton Eade scored and had two assists to help the Bruins win the consolation final.

» Brandon Sun



Manitoba skip Jennifer Jones, right, hugs third Cathy Overton-Clapham following their semifinal victory. (The Canadian Press)

# Jones brushes by Middaugh to slide into Scotties final

BY DONNA SPENCER

REGINA — Shannon Kleibrink isn't surprised it's Manitoba she has to beat today to win her first Canadian women's curling championship.

Her Alberta team and the Jennifer Jones foursome from Winnipeg have waged pitched battles in bonspiels this season and are ranked No. 1 and 2 respectively in the Canadian rankings of women's curling teams. The teams clashed in the final of two Grand Slam cashspiel events this winter and were 1-1 in them.

"If you knew you were in the final, who would you have thought would be there? For sure, it would have been Jennifer Jones's team," Kleibrink said. "They deserve to be there."

The winner of today's game (CBC, 11:30 p.m.) represents Canada at the world women's curling championship March 22-30 in Vernon, B.C.

"I know we have a lot of respect for Shannon's team and I know they have a lot of respect for us," Jones said. "We want a shot for the win and that's all we're going for."

Manitoba won a seventh consecutive game Saturday and did it by stealing a point in an

extra end to get by Ontario's Sherry Middaugh 9-8 in the semifinal. Kleibrink, who won an Olympic bronze medal two years ago, is playing for her first Canadian championship and Alberta's first in a decade.

Jones skips a team that has consistently been one of Canada's best in recent years. This is her team's third appearance in a Canadian final in the last four years and they won the title in 2005. She can secure a spot in the eight-team Olympic trials in 2009 with a win Sunday.

One way to qualify is to win three major events over three seasons from 2007 to 2009. Jones won last year's Canada Cup and Players Championship for two of the three.

Jones, third Cathy Overton-Clapham, second Jill Officer — a former Brandonite — and lead Dawn Askin were 3-4 on "terrible Tuesday," as Jones calls it, when they lost 10-3 to Alberta.

The Manitobans went 7-4 in the preliminary round and had to get by Newfoundland and Labrador in a tiebreaker game to secure the final playoff berth. Then it was a win over Quebec in Friday's playoff game to get to the semifinal.

» The Canadian Press

# Devils, Trojans clinch final four spots

## Local Briefs

### BRANDONITES MEDAL

PORTAGE — A pair of Brandon University Judokan members have brought back medals from the judo tournament here Saturday.

Brandon's Matthew Norman scored a gold medal in the under-40-kilogram weight class while Andrew Norman came back with a silver in the under-

50-kg class. Up next for the club is hosting the provincial senior championships at the BU Gymnasium on March 8.

### LOCALS LEAD STARS

BOTTINEAU, N.D. — Brandon's Tyson Ramsey and Mark Kolesar and Souris native Jeff Affleck scored to help lead the Steinbach North Stars to a 4-1 win over the NDSU Bottineau Lumberbacks in exhibition hockey action on Saturday.

Denny Marcon also scored for the North Stars, who also won 7-3 on Friday night, while Josh Rutherford replied for the Lumberjacks. Steinbach netminder Trevor Clay made 37 saves, while Ian Berlin stopped 30 shots for Bottineau.

The North Stars now begin the best-of-seven Senior AAA provincial final against the Grunthal Red Wings next Friday night in Ile des Chenes. » Brandon Sun

The Antler River Devils posted their second straight shutout to earn a berth into the Westman High School Hockey League final four after a 2-0 win over the Killarney/Wawanese Raiders on Saturday night.

The Devils won the best-of-three South Division final series in two straight games and will join the Dauphin Clippers and a wild-card team in the league's finale, along with the Major Pratt Trojans, who won the

North Division series with an 8-3 victory over the Rivers/Elton Rage on Saturday night.

At Killarney, James Greig and Ryan Crepeee scored goals and Brandt VanCauwenbergh posted the shutout.

At Rivers, Cole Cusitar scored four times and Ben Davidson added a goal and an assist for the Trojans, who won the series two straight. Brady Dinwoodie had two goals to lead the Rage. Brandon Gillis also scored.