

PRIVATELY PUBLISHED FOR THE LAKE FOREST AND LAKE BLUFF COMMUNITIES

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FOREST & BLUFF



JIANG XUE BING:
A Man of
Four Legends

F&B SOCIAL
Paparazzi
AROUND TOWN

JIANG XUE BING OF LAKE FOREST

WINNING WITH



LOGAN GROOVER OF THE MEN'S WISCONSIN TEAM

IT'S USUALLY A MAJOR FEAT to entice most teenagers to sweep and sweat while cleaning out the family garage. How many of them yearn to use a hammer to its best advantage or ask for a broom for Christmas? The answer is every teenager who enjoys playing with sticks and stones in the age old sport of curling. This past December six energetic Lake Forest and Lake Bluff teenagers, on four different teams, sweated and swept their way through the state junior playdowns to win two state championships. They will represent Illinois and Wisconsin in both the junior men's and junior women's divisions at the 2006 USCA Junior National Curling Championship in Duluth, Minnesota. All of these State Champion Juniors are members of Exmoor Curling Club and, in an ironic twist, sister will face off against sister, friend against friend, and classmate against classmate.

For all those who haven't a clue about curling or who haven't watched the Winter Olympic Games since 1998, curling is an old Scottish sport played on a 146 feet long "sheet" of ice. It requires precision movements and complex strategy. After shaking hands with the salutation, "Good curling," two teams of four players respectively, alternate throwing sixteen forty-two pound granite stones along the sheet of ice and attempt to have them "curl" to a stop within a far circle (the "house"). After all sixteen rocks have been thrown, the team with the stones closest to the center wins the points and the "end." Typically, there are eight to ten "ends" in any given game. These six Exmoor juniors will travel to Duluth with high hopes, ready to join the other champion juniors from around the United States. Fans from every region will cheer for their state team as the competitors meet on their icy battlefield, each

STICKS AND STONES

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DANIEL KULLMAN TEXT BY BOBBI GROVER

hoping to come away with the National title.

A member of the Junior Women's State Champion team from Illinois is Katherine Stewart. She lives in Lake Bluff and is a senior (busy with college applications and anticipation) at The Woodlands Academy of The Sacred Heart. She has been practicing for the day when she might win a state title and dream of the Olympics. She practices four days a week along with personal training to keep in shape for the demands of the game, a game whose strain is both physical and mental. This is Katherine's first State Championship and her first trip to Nationals. They are looking forward to the challenge because she and her team just won the 2006 Gloamin' Gaels Bonspiel at Chicago Curling Club. She loves to travel, hopes to study Spanish and to spend her junior year abroad. Although Duluth, Minnesota is not Spain or Tuscany (her two favorite places) it holds the promise of a splendid adventure and, hopefully, great things to come.

Kaitie Kovach is also a member of the Illinois team. This Lake Forest teen spent a year in Japan with her family and is a senior (also into those college apps) at Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette where she is a swimmer on the school team and was their captain this 2005 season. Kaitie is left-handed and feels that this gives her team a chance to play both sides of the ice. She adds that her particular strengths are her "take-outs" and her sweeping but she practices hard to improve in all aspects of the sport. Kaitie has been curling for ten years and has been runner-up at the State playdowns four times but this is her first State Championship and first trip to Nationals. When not curling, Kaitie plays guitar, both acoustic and electric. She's taken lessons for four years and has played at the school youth ministry and school masses. She also writes for the school newspaper, *Crown*, and has her own column called, "Splotch of Kovach." Her column covers a wide range of light-hearted topics like—school stress! Kaitie hopes to make a career of her writing with a major in journalism. Kendall Moulton is the youngest member representing Illinois. She's a sophomore at Lake Forest High School, enjoying the Junior Varsity cross-country/track team and honing her interests in architecture and interior design. She started curling at a family bonspiel when she was eleven. Although, along with Kaitie and Katherine and their out-of-town teammates, she came in fourth at the Madison Junior Bonspiel in December, this is a year of firsts for Kendall—her first team year with Kaitie and her first State Championship with a second trip to Nationals. This girl is on a roll and wants to win at the National and World level before she ages out of juniors. How does she hope to accomplish this? Exercise, strategize and train! When Kendall is not babysitting or spending time with friends, she plays the tuba in the school band. She has played the giant instrument for five years, ever since she watched the Wisconsin marching band stream through the student union at Madison. Although she doesn't

really like to travel (she's not a fan of airplanes) Kendall is enthusiastically packing her bags—Duluth, here they come!

Grant Rahn is also enthusiastically packing his bags for Duluth, although, as a senior at Lake Forest High school, he has to think of packing in between studying for exams and applying to colleges. He comes from a curling family and has been curling, himself, since he was five years old. His experience shows in his accomplishments as this is Grant's third Illinois State Junior Curling Championship and his third trip to Nationals. Grant has played most of the positions in the game and feels that this versatility is his strength. He's hoping that this asset will help Ryan Brown of Deerfield and his other out-of-town teammates to win Nationals and take them to World Junior's. So, in a word, it's "...practice, practice, practice—at least as much as I can." Like the other Illinois Junior State Champions, it's hard to find any free time. Grant is a member of the LFHS baseball team, enjoys bowling and flag football, and is an umpire for Little League. Grant hopes to someday run his own business and travel to great "warm" places like Hawaii.

Two other Lake Forest teenagers drove further north and won the Wisconsin State Curling Championships in both junior men's and junior women's divisions.

A senior at Lake Forest High School, Logan Groover is busy working for the LFHS's Technology Department in addition to his school work. This agenda keeps him juggling schedules for "ice time." Since his teammates are based in Green Bay, Wisconsin, it's a balancing act that exhibits true dedication to the sport. He has been a member of different teams, each of which won the Illinois Junior Men's State title and represented Illinois at Nationals four years in a row. This year, his team joined together to capture the Wisconsin Junior Men's State title. It was a hard fought, nail-biter but they triumphed over the team that achieved second place at Nationals 2005. When he is not curling or studying Logan manages his own company called, Raptor, which provides at-home computer repair and video production, and he is also a director at LFTV. As an accomplished equestrian, he has jumped his flashy chestnut thoroughbred to many blue ribbons and donned his "colors" to ride with the hounds. A team player, Logan's strong points are his ability to be coach-able, his willingness to learn, and his positive attitude. Surely, as he heads to Nationals for a fifth time, he will find ample fodder for his career major—film and video production.

A LFHS graduate and a freshman at University of Minnesota, Jordon Moulton didn't get serious about the sport until she was fifteen. However, once hooked, it was serious with a capital "S." In 2004, she attended the Füssen Junior Camp in Füssen, Germany to work on technique and strategy. Jordon and her past teams captured the Illinois Junior Women's title three times and, this year, the

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY LARRY MILLER

FRONT ROW (L-R):
KAITLIN KOVAC, KATHERINE STEWART.
BACK ROW: KENDALL MOULTON, GRANT RAHN,
JORDAN MOULTON.
NOT PICTURED: LOGAN GROOVER.

return. With her training at the University of Minnesota, she hopes to speak enough languages fluently that "...someone will want to pay me money to do it."

Congratulations to all these State Champions for their accomplishment! Though the sisters, friends, and classmates will battle it out against one another in Duluth, only the capricious Fates know which team might capture the ultimate privilege of representing the United States at World Junior's in Korea. Good luck, sweep hard and remember to aim for the broom! **F&E**


Wisconsin Junior Women's title. Duluth will be her fourth appearance on the National level (2005 as a semi-finalist). She feels her particular strengths are her ability to judge the weight of the stone and her sweeping. To improve that ability, she plays in as many leagues as she can. The competition, as well as the many varied social experiences of curling, really adds to its enjoyment. Jordon has her eye on the World Junior's and the Olympics. Besides the thrill of curling at that level, she loves to travel anywhere, preferably to warm places. This summer she enjoyed a trip to Greece and is dying to

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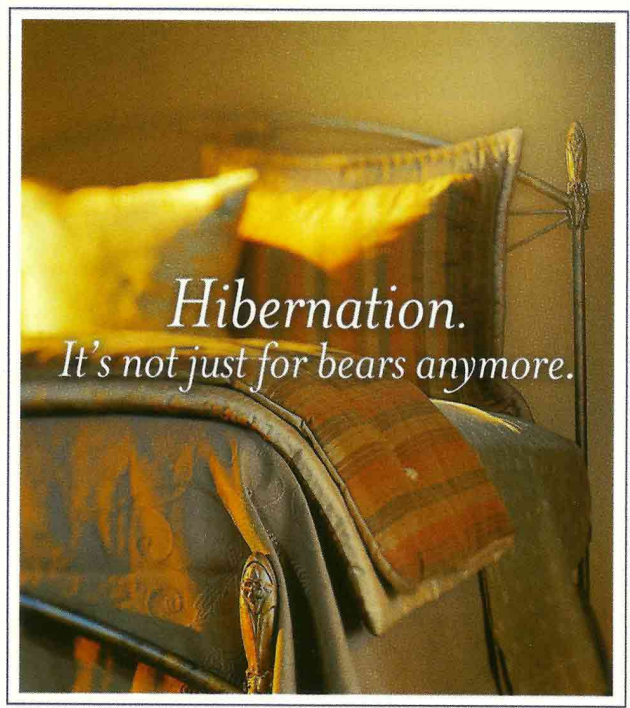
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