

# Krepps ready to take lifelong passion to Olympic Games

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**ON THE BUTTON** Krepps will be among those lending their coaching expertise in Vancouver, as he looks to help Cheryl Bernard's rink to a gold medal.

As preparations for the Winter Olympics enter the final stretch, Golden Bears and Pandas curling head coach Rob Krepps is among those scrambling to ready himself for the trip to Vancouver.

Krepps, who is also the curling manager and head coach at the Saville Sports Centre, is headed to the Olympics to serve as a specialty coach and scout for the Canadian women's curling team skipped by Calgary's Cheryl Bernard.

Originally from Ottawa, Krepps learned how to curl at age 14, and instantly became hooked with the sport.

"I can remember, time to time, skipping school and going to the rink in an effort to try to perfect my game," Krepps noted.

After a stellar junior career and some time spent competing in the Ontario provincial play downs, Krepps decided to join the World Curling Tour at age 25. He spent almost 10 years competing on the circuit before moving to Halifax, where he managed a couple of curling clubs, before eventually finding his way to the Saville Centre.

Shortly after his arrival in Edmonton, Krepps was targeted by the Director of the Canadian Curling Association (CCA) Gerry Peckham as someone who could possibly contribute as a coach.

"Approximately 10 years ago, I started to get involved with coaching and I received great support from Gerry. He has mentored me along and, to this day, he is probably the strongest influence I have in my coaching career," Krepps stated. "I have also channeled that competitive drive from my playing days into my coaching efforts."

Only recently, however, has Krepps become regularly involved in working with Canadian curling squads at international competitions. At the 2007 Men's World Championship held at Rexall Place, Krepps worked in a small capacity with Canada's Glenn Howard. In 2008 and 2009, Krepps found himself coaching the Canadian Women's World Championship team, skipped both years by Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones.

“My role has been one as a CCA consultant coach that goes into an existing team to work with that team and its coach, to help them improve in areas that I might have expertise in. The areas I focus on are the technical aspects of the game, such as the four phases of the curling delivery and to some extent brushing and shot management,” Krepps explained.

Krepps’ love of the strategy and tactics involved with curling prompted him to write a book on the game that will be released shortly after the Olympics. The book will serve as a resource for the CCA, as well as to the development of advanced coaching.

His expertise in those areas was recently aided when the Saville Centre was named as the national training centre for curling. State-of-the-art technology has been put in place, and, as Krepps said, “it gives the athletes immediate feedback after they’ve thrown a shot.”

With Bernard’s rink, Krepps maintains that in Vancouver, in addition to scouting other teams, as well as rock and ice conditions, he is there to offer a different perspective and help the athletes with their overall comfort and confidence as they strive for gold.