

Shannon Kleibrink

Sport: Curling

Born: October 1968

Birthplace: Norquay, Sask.

Residence: Okotoks, Alberta.

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Nothing is ever impossible . . . if you can dream it, you can do it. That's what I tell young athletes who want to go far in their sport.

I owe my success in curling to my dream—and to my work to make that dream come true.

We are on the road in competition from Thursday to Monday on most weekends during the season. A typical day in competition involves two or three games which means we are on the ice for six to eight hours a day. This doesn't leave much time for anything else with the exception of eating and sleeping!

I'm on the road about 80 days a year. I couldn't do it without my husband, who is my hero. He stays at home with two very busy kids. He makes sure our children's family life is never compromised because I'm away . . . and he does it without a single complaint.

Something else that's made a big difference to me is that I was fortunate enough to grow up in Alberta, where curling is a prominent part of life for many people. Good coaching and great competition have always been easy to find here. Just about every small town in Alberta has a curling rink and I think I have played in just about all of them!

My proudest moment was when I threw the final shot to win the Olympic curling trials in 2005. We had a fairly simple in turn takeout to score three but nothing is really simple when the Olympics are on the line. The moment the shot was made we became a team of Olympians and it was the greatest feeling in the world.

Being a world-class athlete has a lot of exciting rewards and it also has some important responsibilities, like leadership. You serve as an influential role model for others and everything you do will be watched. I consider myself lucky to be able to influence youth to participate in my sport and plan to work with kids in curling for years to come. One of the most powerful things I can do is lead by example.

Family: Married to Richard with two children: Torri (16) and Kyler (13)

Career: Accountant with an investment firm

Club: Calgary Winter Club

Other Sport Highlights:

- Bronze medal at 2006 Torino Games with teammates Amy Nixon (third), Glenys Bakker (second) and Christine Keshen (lead)
- First woman skip to win a Canadian Mixed Curling Championship (2004); first woman skip of a Canadian Mixed Curling Championship team (2003)
- Team Kleibrink won 2005 Canada Cup of Curling
- Has represented Alberta three times at the Tournament of Hearts
- Earned direct entry into the 2009 Canadian Curling Trials in Edmonton in December 2009 at Rexall Place