

Ladies World Curling Championship: Three Metis Women Lead Canada to Victory, Connie Laliberte (b. Oct. 21, 1960)

Connie Laliberte, a Metis woman, was the first Aboriginal woman to lead a team to victory in the Ladies World Curling Championship in 1984. Connie Laliberte and her curling team of Chris (Pidzarko-More) Scalena, Corinne Laliberte, and Janet Laliberte-Arnott were inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.



Connie Laliberte and her team mates Chris (Pidzarko- More) Scalena, Corinne Laliberte, and Janet Laliberte-Arnott

It was their collective effort during the 1983—1984 curling season that earned them the Hall of Fame nomination. Skipped by Connie Laliberte, the team swept through every challenge it faced, won its district in December, the Manitoba championship in February, the Canadian final less than one month later, and the world title in Perth, Scotland at the end of March, and in the process became the first Manitoba and only second Canadian team to win a world title. Connie and her sisters Corinne and Janet, all learned their craft from their mother, Jean Laliberte who was a Curl Canada instructor.

In 1976, just eighteen months after she began playing, Laliberte earned her first provincial title, playing lead for Patti Vande. She repeated that feat the following year and was a runner-up in 1979 as a third for Laura Rance. In 1980, Laliberte made the transition to lead in the women's ranks when, as lead for Donna Brownridge, she added a third provincial title to her collection. The following year, Laliberte skipped her own team, which included her twin sister Corinne and older sister Janet, and qualified for the provincial championship, a feat that she repeated from 1982-84. Although 1984 marked her first world title, it was her fourth Canadian championship and sixth provincial title. Connie Laliberte was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 2000 and subsequently retired from competitive curling.

Reference:
Sport Manitoba: Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame.



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