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December 23, 2005

United States Curling Association
1100 Cedar Point Drive
P.O. Box 866
Stevens Point, WI 54481
ATTN: Olympic Committee

Dear USC Assn,

You are located on Cedar Point Drive! I have some friends who live there! But in another city. I wonder as I look at your address, you are located on Cedar Point drive IN Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Is there a point where Stevens Point and Cedar Point come together in some fashion to form a single point? Are they the same geographical place, or does one engulf the other?

But enough talk about points. I want to talk about curling. This is a most interesting sport that doesn't seem to get much media attention. What is its origins? What are its rules? How are curling points calculated? (I couldn't stay away from the discussion of points!)

Where/when do most curling athletes learn about this sport and develop a real interest in it? I have never seen any high school curling programs or pee wee curling leagues. Maybe it is strictly offered to the kids living in the northern states. I live on Lake Erie -- where it gets pretty cold in the winter (we were down to 8 degrees last week, yet we still have some people here in northern Ohio robust enough to brave those temperatures without coats) -- but I never saw any curling teams locally at any of the schools. So from where exactly do you draw most of today's up and coming curlers?

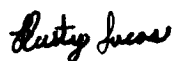
I don't want to make any assumptions and I don't want to offend anyone, but curling looks like the least strenuous Olympic sport I have seen, so I am thinking it might be right up my alley. I mean no disrespect by my comments, I just noticed that there is not as much athletic maneuvering in curling as there is in, say, ice skating or hockey or ski jumping. I am not saying that there is no skill or finesse involved. Clearly that is not the case. Just not much heavy lifting or high impact or pulled muscles. Is there a general rule age limit to curling? Like in football, very few professionals make it past 35, and in professional baseball, you are an aged veteran if you are 45. Is there an upper limit for professional curlers? Is it even possible to go professional in curling?

I have always dreamed of being a participant in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games as all of the athletes march in to the sound of *Bugler's Dream*. What a joy it must be to win a gold medal! At 47 years old, I know that my chances of getting onto the USA Olympic hockey or basketball teams is pretty slim. I also cannot skate or swim, so that really limits my Olympic options. I know that making the cut for the national curling team is also unlikely, but I think it is the best shot I've got. Do you have any vacancies on the 2006 squad that I could try out for? I am going to be 51 when the 2010 games arrive and I fear that my window of opportunity will be even slimmer then. I think I would be very regretful if I never tried to get to the Olympics -- always wondering: "What if?"... I want to try out for the curling team!

Which brings me back to the point I was making earlier. How do people get involved in this sport to start with when there are no organized leagues that I have ever seen in the school systems? If I had been exposed to curling as a youngster, I might already have an Olympic medal today. Do you have a department there responsible for expanding the general knowledge base of your sport and increasing its exposure to the average American sports fan or participant? If so, I think you might want to re-think some of your policies and procedures since not very many of us know much about this sport.

Please let me know what I need to do to try out for the 2006 USA team. I can travel to Wisconsin for an interview if there is someone there who can pick me up at the train station. Do you have any grants or do any fund raising for potential team members?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rusty Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rusty Lucas

p.s. If I cannot try out for the team this year, please put me on the waiting list for the future. If I don't make the team, do you have any Team USA Curler baseball caps? Please send me one. I want to wear it with pride when our guys put their best foot forward in Turin, Italy.