



## 2009 WORLD CUP REPORT

This year's World Cup was held in Charlotte, North Carolina (USA). This was the 17<sup>th</sup> World Cup and the third time that it has been held in the United States. Our team arrived at the Blake Hotel and was welcomed by the ADO President, Buddy Bartoletta, who did a great job of making us all feel at home.

On Wednesday, our first day in Charlotte, the team was pretty much on their own to do some shopping in the downtown area or just relax around the pool at the hotel. There were practice boards that had been set up for the players and some of the team took advantage of those. In the evening everyone gathered for drinks and a buffet supper that was held for all the teams and their managers. Following supper the teams gathered in the venue for the opening ceremonies. The teams were paraded on stage and introduced by the Master of Ceremonies and the official start of the World Cup was pronounced.

Thursday, the first day of play, began with the Men's Team Event. Canada was in a group of four teams including Brazil, Belgium and the Netherlands. Team Canada finished second in the section with the following scores: Canada-9 / Brazil-1, Canada-9 / Belgium-3, and Canada-8 / Netherlands-9. The team also played the first three rounds of the knock-out beating Finland 9-6, Scotland 9-5, and Northern Ireland 9-6. The finals went to Saturday when they would be played on stage against the team from the Netherlands. Even though Team Canada played well, they were just not getting the breaks that they needed. The Netherlands came on strong and won the gold medal with the score of 9-5. Team Canada was disappointed with their second place win but overall they were very pleased with their silver medals. This is the first time since 1989 that the Men's Team from Canada has been on stage in the Men's Event. Congratulations to Clint Clarkson, Ken MacNeil, Jerry Hull and Bernie Miller for a job well done!!

Thursday afternoon the Women's Pairs were played with Canada in a group with Wales, Italy and Northern Ireland. The team of Cindy Parry and Diane Gobeil placed second in the section with the following scores: Wales-4 / Canada-2, Northern Ireland-4 / Canada-2, Canada-4 / Italy-0. The first round of the knock-out saw Canada meet the team from Russia and unfortunately, although they played well, Canada lost 4-0.

Friday was a very busy day with the Men's Singles, Ladies Singles and the Men's Pairs events. The first round of the knock-out saw Ken lose his game to the Republic of Ireland. In the second round Jerry dropped his game to Norway. Clint and Bernie made their way to the top 32 and lost to Russia and Sweden respectively. In the Men's Pairs, the team of Clint Clarkson and Bernie Miller lost in the top 32 against a team from

Sweden and the team of Ken MacNeil and Jerry Hull lost in the top 16 against a team from Norway. As for the Ladies Singles event, Cindy Pardy met Mayumi Ouchi from Japan and lost the game 4-0. Diane Gobeil won her first round against Loli Cascales from Spain with a score of 4-2 but then she unfortunately met Julie Gore of Wales in the second round. Diane played superb darts; however, she was defeated by a score of 4-2.

Saturday was the day of finals and I am sure that everyone enjoyed watching the matches. The overall points were established with Team Canada finishing in a very respectable 4<sup>th</sup> place behind the teams of Australia, England and the Netherlands.

The closing ceremonies saw all teams assembled one more time. Each team was called on stage and presented with a token of appreciation from the American Darts Organization.

Canada should be very pleased with the results of our team. These six players shot incredible darts for three days and by the time they walked off the stage at the closing ceremonies they had earned the respect of countries around the world, not just for their performance at the oche, but also for their sportsmanship and the composure with which they handled adversity.

And, as the Master of Ceremonies Richard Ashdown said: “Wherever you find a dart board you find a friend” and the World Cup is a fantastic dramatization of this point. Thank you Clint, Ken, Jerry, Bernie, Cindy and Diane; you made the week special for all of us and we are so proud to be Canadian!

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Dezan & Bill Hatter  
Team Canada Managers