

**CURLING
TIP
19**

The Art of Good Sweeping

*by Ross
Murdoch*

Ross Murdoch played second for Norm Houck's 1964 Tournament of Champions rink.

One of the most important aspects of the curling game is sweeping. Good sweeping gets results.

To sweep well, you must use the proper equipment. Choose a broom with a comfortable weight and a handle of size and length that suits you. Wear a very tight pair of gloves, for loose or bulky ones tend to roll up and cause those miserable blisters.

What is the proper grip? If you are a right-handed sweeper, place the handle of the broom across the palm of the right hand so that the end of the broom is just about flush with the top of the index finger and the top of the thumb. Place the left hand under the handle so that the handle rests across the palm at an angle of about 45°, then wrap the thumb and fingers around the top of the handle.

In the grip, the right and left hands should be a comfortable distance apart, approximately 10" to 12".

All sweeping action comes from the fast movement of the left hand and wrist; the right hand follows the handle and is used for a guide.

The footwork to employ as you move up the ice on the left side of the rock being swept is most important. Your feet should initially be shoulder width apart. Slide the left foot forward about two feet, putting a little weight on the right foot at the same time. Then bring up the right foot alongside the left. This is, of course, a very fast, coordinated motion.

