

7. 12. 2008 ÖRNSKÖLDSVIK, Sweden - by George Karrys

Sweden's curling heroines defeated Scotland 9-8 in a nailbiter to move to 3-0 at the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships 2008.

Anette Norberg, the defending Olympic champion, three-time world champion and unprecedented seven-time Euro champion beat Kelly Wood in a rematch of last year's Euro final held in Fuessen, Germany.

It was the first challenging game for Norberg, who thumped the Netherlands 12-2 on Saturday night. And the Swedes overcame a shocking Scottish four-ender in the eighth end to score four unanswered points of their own, including two steals.

Wood's first loss drops her squad to 2-1, tied with Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

The Germans, skipped by veteran Andrea Schoepp were stunned 8-3 by England's Kristy Balfour, whose modest goal at the championship is to finish no lower than seventh, thus avoiding a return to next year's Euro B-Division.

"My coach told me before the game this is like a football match, England versus Germany," said a delighted Balfour, who climbed to 1-2.

"I'm not a footy fan myself, but he's a massive fan. And this was a massive result for us."

Italy's Diana Gaspari also pulled an upset, defeating Switerland's Mirjam Ott (1-2) by a 7-4 count.

Denmark won their first match 8-1 over Russia to put both squads at 1-2. The Czech Republic is winless at 0-3.

In men's action, Switzerland's Stefan Karnusian moved to 3-0 with an 8-3 win over Germany (2-1) following his 10-5 victory over Ireland. The Irish (1-2) then lost 7-4 to Spain's Antonio de Mollinedo (1-2) while Scotland's David Murdoch, the defending European champion, picked up two wins, a 13-1 demolition of Spain and a 9-0 drubbing over the struggling Czech Republic (0-3).

Norway's Thomas Ulsrud recovered from a wild 12-8 loss to Germany to post a 10-3 victory over France (1-2) to sit at 2-1. Denmark is the fourth team with a 2-1 record, following a win over the Czechs and a loss to Sweden, who are now at 1-2.

Action continues with a Sunday night men's draw available for viewing at the Eurosport Player, at [player.eurosport.com](http://player.eurosport.com), followed by four full draws of curling on Monday, from 08:00 to 23:00 local time.

Curling fans can see all these draws with special discounted Eurosport Player subscription codes listed at the World Curling Federation website (at [www.worldcurling.org](http://www.worldcurling.org)) and the event website (at [www.ecc2008.se](http://www.ecc2008.se)).

Live scoring can be viewed at [www.cuponline.nu](http://www.cuponline.nu)

Game feeds and highlight packages are also available from World Curling Television (WCTV), which will produce Monday night's SWE-CZE men's game for High-Definition broadcast on Eurosport.