

Five Undefeated Teams Left After Day 2 of 2016 PIC

Four draws and one water-main break later, just five teams remain undefeated at the 2016 Pacific International Cup at the Richmond Curling Centre. Two time PIC women's champion Campbell River, skipped by 7-time PIC participant Kim Jonsson, needed an extra-end to beat Cloverdale 8-7, handing the Lower Mainland champions their first loss. Okanagan champion Vernon also moved to 3 and 0 with a 10-3 win over Tunnel Town.

On the men's side, Comox Valley (Island North) is the only undefeated B.C. team at 3 and 0, after a 7-1 win over Tunnel Town in the afternoon draw. Langley, Richmond and Summerland are tied for 2nd place at 2 and 1.

Arizona and The Yukon are tied for first place at 3 and 0 in the men's International Pool. The Yukon won a battle of undefeated teams, beating Washington 6-5. Arizona won their only game of the day, 6-5 over Alaska. Texas pulled off the upset of the night, beating undefeated Australia 11-2 for their first win.

The women's International Pool has Alaska and Australia tied for first place at 3 and 1. Four teams are tied at 2 and 2, setting up a furious playoff race in the last two days of round-robin play.

Just when you thought you'd seen everything in curling, the 7th end between Nanaimo and Sparwood was declared a blank end when two rocks at the pinhole could not be measured for shot rock. It was too close to call, so it was ruled a blank end.

Thursday's PIC Banquet was briefly in jeopardy after a water-main break around 3:30 pm. Water was cut off to the Richmond Curling Centre for close to 90 minutes, before Richmond city crews hooked up the club to a hydrant outside the building. Ice conditions were slightly different for the final draw of the day. It also knocked out the toilets during the afternoon, creating a slight dilemma for some curlers. PIC Operations Director Wayne Brawn teased the Australian men's team that he would have to use beer to flush the toilets, but that was quickly nixed by the Aussie men!

The banquet did proceed, featuring guest speaker Vince Miele, a passionate wheelchair curler who was a pioneer in the movement for accessibility for people in wheelchairs.

Round robin action resumes at 8 am Friday, with men's action in both International and B.C. Pools taking to the ice.



Vince Miele, Guest Speaker at the 2016 PIC Banquet

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Intense concentration required! - Tunnel Town CC vs Prince George G&CC

PIC Bitters

Top PIC participants:

Matt Panoussi (Australia) - 10
 Lonnie Schopp (Campbell River) - 8
 Kim Jonsson (Campbell River) - 7
 Vaughan Rosier (Australia) - 7
 Ron Schmidt (Comox Valley) - 6
 Jen Westhagen (Australia) - 6 (5 with Washington)

Have you ever seen the BIC Human Curling? Well, over 3 million people on YouTube have seen it... and apparently Brad Whitlock of the Nevada team was in it. See if you can find him... thankfully he's not the guy in the speedo.

You have a biter for us? Email newsletter@picup.ca

National Anthem Inspires Curlers at 17th Annual PIC

Samantha Siu was greeted by a stirring round of applause and later heartfelt appreciation following her inspiring performance of four national anthems during Wednesday's Opening Ceremonies.

Singing is just one of Siu's natural talents, but it wasn't only the Richmond curler's angelic voice that impressed PIC Players, volunteers and organizers. It was also her linguistic skills – notably her memorable rendition of the New Zealand national anthem in native Maori.

"The renditions were marvelous and inspiring," said PIC

chair Jim Schuman. "The teams teared up. It was very emotional."

Schuman and the PIC vice-chair Jim Mann first learned of Siu's vocal talents a decade ago, following a performance at a BC wheelchair curling event she was also playing in. She has been the official anthem singer at the PIC ever since.

Siu, who won a BC wheelchair curling title two years ago, only began curling in mid-2000, when she was introduced to the game by fellow curler Vince Miele during an awareness event for Spinal Cord Research.

Saturday's "One-end Bonspiel" Proves Popular

As of 6:30 PM Thursday, a total of 74 curlers had signed up for Saturday night's "Only One End Bonspiel". Only one problem with that...the 'spiel can only fit 64 players.

PIC Operations Director Wayne Brawn says he's done the research, and this is the world's first bonspiel consisting of

nothing but one-end games.

It all starts at 7, and considering each game is just one end, Brawn is hoping to have it all over in just over an hour.

Good luck! Top prize is a \$100 credit at the Richmond Curling Centre.

Introducing Team... Nevada (Men)

Home Club: Las Vegas Curling Club

David Flippo - Skip

Years curling: 10 Started curling in Fairbanks, Alaska. Competed in four USCA Club and Mixed Nationals events. "The curlers themselves are what make this sport so enjoyable to me. No matter where I go, I always know that I'll meet the friendliest people."

Ryan Flippo - Third

Years curling: 9 USCA Mixed nationals 2013, USCA Mixed doubles 2012, USCA Club nationals 2011 and 2013, PIC Silver medal 2014.

Brad Whitlock - Second

Years curling: 5 Columnist for U.S. Curling magazine. "It's great to witness, and be a part of, the growing curling phenomenon in the U.S. over the past few years."

Patrick Kingsley - Lead

Years curling: 2 Tried curling on a whim and was immediately hooked. "What's unique about curling is it's a game you could play for 20 years and still learn something new every game."

Nick Kitinski - Fifth

Introduced to curling in high school in Sweden. Founded Hollywood Curling Club and Las Vegas Curling Club.