

Playoff matches are set at the 19th annual Pacific International Cup

In true “Murphy’s Law” fashion, there was a four-way tie for 2nd place in the International Women’s Division, creating two sets of tie-breakers long into the Saturday night. California clinched first place at 6 and 1, but Arizona, Washington, The Yukon, and Oregon all finished at 5 and 2, and only two of those teams could make the playoffs. After conferring with super-computers, Excel spreadsheets, head-to-head games—plus the “Draw to the Button” results—Arizona was awarded 2nd place. Oregon and the Yukon played the first tie-breaker, with Yukon stealing in the 8th end for a 9-8 win (despite a 6-ender for Oregon in the 3rd end). The Yukon then faced Washington in the second tie-breaker, with Washington winning 7-6 to earn the right to be Arizona’s opponent at 8 am Sunday morning in the International semi-final.

Saturday morning saw the biggest crowd of the week so far watching the B.C. Men’s first-place showdown on sheet 5 between undefeated Langley and the host team from Richmond. 2014 PIC Champion Darren Frycz put on a shot-making display on very tricky ice—especially in the 5th end, when he made two straight precision angle-raises to score 4, giving Langley a 7-3 lead. But it wasn’t an easy finish. Richmond—skipped by esteemed veteran Vic Shimizu, with 24 year old ace Cody Tanaka throwing fourth stones—scored 2 in the 6th, and stole one in 7 to make it 7-6. Richmond had a chance to steal another in the 8th, but Tanaka’s final draw came up a shade light, and Langley didn’t have to throw their last rock. “Whew!” said Frycz, who clinched a berth in Sunday’s B.C. Final. Frycz, Second Don Monk, and Lead Steve Claxton were all part of the 2014 PIC gold medal team, and they’ve added Third Mike Sitter for this year’s event. Darren’s brother Don spared Saturday morning in place of Steve (who had to work) and Don made two perfect “tick” shots in the 8th end.

Sportsmanship Awards

Singapore Skip Sarah Cai, and Australia Skip Matt Panoussi were awarded the women’s and men’s Sportsmanship Awards, as voted by their fellow curlers. Congratulations!

Richmond takes on Kamloops in the B.C. Men’s semi-final. Kamloops—skipped by Owen Hayward, with 2-time BC Junior champ Tyler Klymchuk throwing fourth stones-- forced a tie-breaker with a win over Juan de Fuca in the final round-robin game, then beat Juan de Fuca again 6-5 in the tie-breaker. Ouch.

Defending PIC Champion Washington clinched first place in the International men’s division with a 6 and 1 record. Arizona clinched 2nd place with a 7-2 win over Oregon to finish at 5 and 2, tied with The Yukon, who beat California 6-4 to avoid a tie-breaker.

In the B.C. Women’s division, McArthur Island’s Lori Olsen—making her first-ever PIC appearance—upset 4-time PIC champion Campbell River 6-2 in the final round-robin game to clinch first place. Both teams finished 6 and 1, but that win gave Lori Olsen and her team representing the Okanagan a direct berth into the B.C. Final. Cloverdale avoided falling into a tie-breaker with Creston by beating Creston 7-4 to finish at 5 and 2. At stake in the provincial final is a berth in this November’s Travelers Canadian Club Championships in Miramichi, New Brunswick.

Spirit of Curling On Display

Pierre De Coubertin, considered the father of the modern Olympic Games: *“The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle, the essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well.”* In that spirit, our journalism student volunteer Alberto followed a men’s game between winless Nevada and first-place Washington. Nevada played its best and kept it close for a while, but a “Miracle on Ice” didn’t happen this time. Nevada Third Greg Felton: “The miracle didn’t happen but we had fun all together and the most important is to learn from each experience.” Washington Third Ed Strachan was impressed. “They made some good shots to keep control, but we stayed focused and won. It was a perfect way to finish the round-robin.”

PIC Bitters

One End Bonspiel Winners!

‘A’ Winners - Brenda Alves (Royal City), Andrew Rivers (California), Kari McKinlay (Island South and Elisha Yeager (Royal City)

‘B’ Winners - Becca Keible (Nevada), Greg Felton (Nevada), Charlotte Yew (Singapore), Brennan Dubord (Quesnel)

Congrats to the winners and all the finalists!



Sliding into the BC Men’s Finals - Darren Frycz (Langley CC)

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"Mykos" feline found in Greece.



Team Cloverdale in Action

Meet the Teams

Washington Men (Granite Curling Club)

Skip - John Shoemith grew up in Winnipeg and lives in Redmond with his wife Kathy and two sons. John's hobby is collecting license plates. He is still seeking an expired B.C. 2010 Olympics license plate for his collection. Help anyone??

Third - Andrew Ernst has been curling since junior high school and moved to Seattle in 2000. Off the ice, Andrew enjoys distance running, photography, music, and loves everything to do with coffee.

Second - Ed Strachan grew up curling in Thunder Bay and came back to the sport two years ago after a decade away. Favorite place: on a mountain. Least favorite place: shopping mall.

Lead - John Harrison has been curling for 17 years and lives in Seattle with his wife Queena and their precocious cat Mykos that they adopted off the street in Santorini, Greece. John is the only member of the team who has never lived in Canada.

Cloverdale (Lower Mainland Women's Qualifier 2)

Skip - Leanne Andrews has been to the PIC six times and has won gold twice. Finished 4th at the 2015 Travelers Canadian Championship in Ottawa. Married to Brent for 26 years and have 2 grown kids; Trevor and Cari. "Empty nester!"

Third - Jenn Routliffe started curling in High School at a 3-sheet facility in Shawville, Quebec and moved to BC in 1989. Jenn has played with her "sister" Leanne for over 20 years, in the PIC six times and won gold twice.

Second - Ashley Murray remembers being "a little rink rat" running around the Tumbler Ridge Curling Club while her mom was on the ice. Eventually started curling

at 12 years old in Williams Lake. Ashley won the BC Juvenile Championship after moving to the Lower Mainland in 2002.

Lead - Jaime Milward grew up in the Yukon and has been curling since she was 8 years old. Jaime represented the Yukon at the Junior Nationals three times from 1998 – 2000

Juan de Fuca (Island South Men)

Skip - Derek Richardson (age 38), born in Surrey and has curled for 29 years. PCCA 1994 Juvenile winners, BC Winter Games Bronze Medallist 1994-95. BC Junior Silver Medal 1997, Mixed-Island champs in 2014

Third - Steve McKague (age 59) born in Edmonton and has curled for 47 years. Competed in 5 World Curling Tour events.

Second - Mike Angrove (age 59) born in Victoria and has curled for 47 years. Mixed- Island champs in 2014

Lead - Dave Roth (age 59) born in Victoria and has curled for 16 years.

Yukon – Women (Whitehorse Curling Club)

Skip Laura Eby and **Third Lorna Spenner** have curled together for 8 years.

Lead Janine Peters joined the team 5 years ago and **Second Tamar Vandenburghe** joined 2 years ago.

This team previously played in the PIC in 2015 and 2016. They represented The Yukon at the Travellers Canadian Club Curling Championship in 2016 and won the right to go again this November.

The team motto is "Giv'er", their mascot is a sheep, and their sponsor is Yukon Stone Outfitters.

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Pacific International Cup Times - 2018