



The PIC Times

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End of Day 4 – by Mike Hanafin

The playoff match-ups are set and underway after the completion of the round-robin games and tie-breakers at the 16th annual Pacific International Cup (“The PIC”) at the Richmond Curling Centre.

Three of the four pools avoided tie-breakers, but it was no such luck in the men’s International pool, with 4 teams tied for the third and final playoff spot. Australia beat New Zealand 6-5 and Illinois beat Oregon 7-1 in the first round of tie-breaker games. Illinois then jumped out to an early 5-0 lead against Australia on their way to a 10-2 win in the second tie-breaker.

Illinois now plays Washington State in Sunday’s International semi-final (8 am PDT). Washington avoided the tie-breaker mess with a 5-4 win over Oregon. Waiting in the International men’s final (10:30 am PDT) will be The Yukon, which clinched first place in that pool with a 7-6 win over Wisconsin to finish the round-robin at 6 and 1.

The men’s B.C. pool playoffs will see Vancouver take on Vernon in Sunday morning’s (8 am PDT) semi-final, with the winner taking on first-place Chilliwack in the B.C. Pool final at 10:30 am. Chilliwack’s Kevin Britz finished 7 and 0 after an 8-7 win over Richmond, dropping the host team to 3 and 4 after starting 3 and 0. Vancouver Curling Club clinched second place with a 6 and 1 record. Vernon won their last 4 games to finish 5 and 2.

Both women’s pools avoided tie-breakers with three teams clear of the rest of the pack. In the B.C. pool, Campbell River finished 7 and 0 and earned a bye to Sunday’s B.C. final. They’ll play the winner of Sunday morning’s B.C. semi-final between Cloverdale and Royal City (New Westminster), who both finished at 5 and 2.

The International women’s semi-final was played Saturday night, with California (5-2 in round robin) stealing one in the 8th end to upset Illinois 6-5. California Skip Sarah Walsh made a perfect freeze with her last rock, and Illinois couldn’t remove it with their last rock. California earns the right to take on first place Washington State (6-1) in Sunday’s International final at 10:30 am. The overall PIC championship finals are on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 PDT.

Saturday night featured the annual Silent Auction and Casino Night, along with the presentation of Sportsmanship Awards. The winners (as voted by fellow players):

Women: Isis Oliveira of Brazil

Men: Rodger Chan of Oregon

The PIC features club curling championship teams from all over British Columbia, along with teams from the Yukon, eight U.S. states, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil. It is one of the premier curling events in the world for the development of the sport at the grass-roots level.

At stake for the British Columbia men’s and women’s club champions is a chance to represent the province at the 2015 Travelers Canadian Curling Club Championship in Ottawa this November.

The PIC also raises money for the event’s official charity: Spinal Cord Injury BC, thanks to the generosity of the participating curlers who have contributed prizes to a silent auction.