



The PIC Times

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Day 2 Activities – by Mike Hanafin

An action-packed Day 2 wrapped up with only six teams remaining undefeated at the 16th annual Pacific International Cup (“The PIC”) at the Richmond Curling Centre.

Washington State’s women’s team skipped by Claire Bonin is the only team with 4 wins, keeping their unblemished record intact with a 7-2 win over previously unbeaten Illinois. Earlier in the day Washington beat Oregon 9-1. Illinois and California are tied for second place in the International pool at 3-and-1. California beat Brazil 7-2 in the afternoon draw, dropping Brazil (yes Brazil!) to 2-and-2.

In the B.C. Women’s pool, Campbell River showed why they were one of the pre-bonspiel favourites, with an 8-5 win over Cloverdale in a battle of previously undefeated teams. The Island North team skipped by Lonnie Schopp (a 2-time PIC champion) is now 3 and 0, tied with Royal City of New Westminster. Royal City won both of their games Thursday, 9-4 over McArthur Island (Kamloops), and 9-7 over Prince George.

On the men’s side, local Richmond curling fans are enjoying a great start by the host team. Norm Richard’s Richmond club champions are 3 and 0, after two wins against Vancouver Island teams on Thursday—7-3 over Kerry Park (Island South), and 10-4 over Fort Rupert (Island North). Chilliwack’s Kevin Britz is also 3 and 0, after wins against Vernon and Quesnel. Kerry Park and Vancouver Curling Club are both at 2 and 1.

A Canadian team also leads the “International” pool. The Yukon is also 3 and 0. Whitehorse skip Tyler Williams beat California and Washington on Thursday. Oregon is alone in second place at 3 and 1, with Australia, Illinois and New Zealand tied for 3rd with 2 and 1 records.

Round Robin play continues Friday and Saturday, with the playoffs wrapping up with the championship finals on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 PDT.

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.