

Playoff Matchups Set at 17th Annual PIC

Murphy's Law came true again on Saturday, as we ended up with 2 rounds of tie-breakers in the women's pools, to determine the final playoff matchups for Sunday. The B.C. women's pool had a three-way tie for the final playoff spot, between Sparwood, Nanaimo, and Vernon (all with 4 wins and 3 losses). Nanaimo beat Vernon 7-4 in the first tie-breaker, then beat Sparwood 7-4 to qualify for Sunday morning's B.C. Semi-final against Cloverdale (5-2).

The International Pool had just one tie-breaker game—Australia vs California, with California winning 7-2 to earn the final playoff berth. They'll play Washington (5-2) in Sunday's International Semi-final.

The semi-final winners will face relatively well-rested teams in the pool finals. Alaska finished in first place in the round-robin with a 6 and 1 record, clinching a berth in the International final with a 6-5 win over Australia in draw 15. Campbell River qualified first in the B.C women's pool with a 5 and 2 record, despite losing their final round-robin game 10-4 to Vernon.

The men (wisely?) avoided all the tie-breakers. In the B.C. Men's Pool, Comox Valley finished the round robin in 7 and 0 after a 5-4 win over Quesnel, and will play in Sunday's B.C. final. Five teams started the day tied for second place at 3 and 3, but miraculously when the dust settled Kerry Park and Langley were the only two

teams to qualify, and will meet in the B.C. Semi-finals. Kerry Park beat Summerland 9-8 and Langley beat Kimberly 8-3. Richmond could have forced a 3-way tie-breaker, but they lost 7-4 to Tunnel Town.

In the International Men's Pool, Australia and The Yukon tied for first place with 6 and 1 records. But Australia won their head-to-head matchup on Friday morning, which clinched them a berth in Sunday's International Final. The Yukon will play Washington in the 8 am semi-final. Washington (5 and 2) clinched 3rd place with a last-draw 10-5 win over Oregon, thereby eliminating Arizona and Alaska at 4 and 3.

At stake for the British Columbia teams is a berth in The Travelers Canadian Curling Club Championship, being held in Kelowna, B.C. in November.

The PIC is one of the premier curling events in the world for the development of the sport at the grass-roots level. Only true "club" teams are eligible. It provides B.C. club champions, American state club champions, and international club curling teams with an opportunity to showcase their skills, while fostering the social traditions of the game.

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



Team Sparwood in action vs Royal City (L-R) Mickey Martin, Christina Smith, Carrie Will

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Your PIC Times Team: (L-R) Chris Summers, Don Fennell, Mike Hanafin

PIC Bitters

2016 PIC Sportsmanship Awards (as voted on by fellow players):

Men: Matthew Hohaia (New Zealand Lead)

Women: Jill Lamberts (Washington Third)

Cloverdale women's skip Danielle Callens is a former PIC champion (2010), who also volunteered with the 2011 Dominion (now Travelers) Canadian Championship as women's player liaison.

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Cupcakes, Rockettes and Kung Fu Panda Po

Nicknames and mascots have been an integral part of sports folklore for decades. And the tradition continues at this year's PIC. The Royal City "Cupcakes" represent the New Westminster club proudly on and off the ice. They came up with the "Cupcakes" nickname four years ago to promote grassroots curling among female club members.

At least one other women's team has a nickname, and it's displayed right on their jackets—"The Rockettes". The Yukon team came up with the nickname six years ago, although to be honest they've forgotten what the inspiration was! The players also came up with a rock and brooms logo on their team jackets.

One of the prized possessions for each women's team this week has been their "mascots". Stuffed animals are donated

to each team by PIC Operations Director Wayne Brawn and his wife Linda. The selection of teams and their mascots are done by Team Services Co-ordinator Katherine Johnson. "I love this tradition!!" said one Alaskan player while carrying the team's stuffed bear. Alaska named their mascot "Kung Fu Panda Po"—after their competitive coach. They say "Po" is cuddly, mellow, and supportive (and apparently likes to drink from his spiked water bowl).

Washington named their mascot "Cola", after giving last year's mascot the name "Coca". The California mascot goes by the name "Husky", despite its crippling shyness. The Arizona team's watchful "Wiley Coyote" is lovingly loyal. And Oregon's "MJ" (short for Marco Jebidiah) is a big fan of winter, mischievous, and loves peanut butter.

Youngest PIC Skip Leads Alaska to International Final

Cora Farrell aspires to become a dental hygienist when she grows up. But that career may have to wait a while because of her aptitude for curling. At just 16—the youngest skip at this year's event—Farrell has high hopes for her curling career. And at this year's PIC, she's proving that her future is indeed promising.

"I want to play at the 2022 Olympics in Beijing," says the affable teenager, who skipped her Fairbanks, Alaska women's team to a come-from-behind 6-5 win over Australia on

Saturday, to complete the round-robin at 6 and 1. Alaska will now play for the International Pool championship Sunday at 10:30 am.

Farrell will vie for a spot on the U.S. Junior National Team at tryouts next month in Minnesota, and has her eyes focused on helping the U.S. win gold in Beijing. In the meantime, she'll continue to sharpen her skills in preparation. And keep up with schoolwork - between games at the PIC she's been cramming in studies in trigonometry.

The PIC "World's Only" One-End Bonspiel

The action was fast and furious in the first ever PIC "World's Only" One-End Bonspiel. As the title suggests, every game was only one end long. 16 teams started and after 4 one-end games, only 1 prevailed.

Through the laughter and good natured heckling, some familiar faces emerged from the pack. In the end, a team full of mostly skips prevailed.

Congratulations to Adam Seymour (Oregon), Beki Nowland (Arizona), Jeff Spaleta (Alaska) and Matt Panoussi (Australia) on winning a thrilling competition.

And thank you to everyone for being part of history!