

The 18th Annual Pacific International Cup is Underway!

Only three teams managed two wins during Wednesday's first day of action at the Richmond Curling Club. Most of the International teams had two games, with Minnesota and Nevada undefeated on the women's side, while Oregon was the only men's team to start 2 and 0.

Minnesota's women's team was a last minute entry (via the wait list), but they've made it worth the trip so far. Skip Jamie Kraus stole 5 in the 3rd end on her way to a 7-1 win over Washington in the evening draw. The Duluth squad beat Oregon 7-3 in their first game. Nevada needed an extra-end to beat Australia 9-7 for their second win.

On the men's side, Oregon beat California 8-4 (despite giving up a 4-ender in the 3rd), after beating Australia 8-7 in the afternoon draw.

The B.C. Division had just one draw on Wednesday. 2015

PIC women's champion Leanne Andrews of Cloverdale opened with a 10-2 win over Creston. Richmond legend Kim Dennis (celebrating her daughter's birthday) edged Golden Ears 4-3 in an all-Lower Mainland battle. Comox Valley beat Cowichan Rocks 7-4, and Kamloops beat Marpole 10-1. In the B.C. Men's pool, Nanaimo won the battle of Vancouver Island 8-2 over Comox Valley, Vancouver CC beat Richmond 9-7, Langley beat Kimberley 7-3, and Vernon edged Williams Lake 7-6. Thursday's first draw begins at 8 AM, with B.C. men and international women's teams in action.

Wednesday's Opening Ceremony featured Richmond wheelchair curler Samantha Siu singing 4 different National Anthems—Australia, U.S.A., Canada, and New Zealand (the last two bilingual!).

Round-robin play continues until Saturday afternoon, with the championship finals on Sunday at 1:30 PDT.

About the Pacific International Cup

The 2017 Pacific International Cup (The PIC) is the 18th annual championship of club curling teams from all over British Columbia, along with teams from the Yukon, eight U.S. states, Australia, and New Zealand. Thanks to a dedicated volunteer committee and passionate curlers it has grown into 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.

At stake for the 16 British Columbia men's and women's club champions is a chance to represent the province at the 2017 Travelers Canadian Curling Club Championship this November in Kingston, Ontario. That event—formerly known as The Dominion (which was hosted by Richmond in 2011)—gives provincial club curling champions the chance to play for a national championship.

The 2017 PIC is also raising money for the event's official charity: Spinal Cord Injury BC. Many thanks to participating curlers and sponsors who have generously contributed prizes to the silent auction.



Opening Ceremonies - 17th Annual Pacific International Cup

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Jim "Eddie" Smoltz - Skip of Team Oregon

PIC Bitters

Don't forget - Sign up for the One-End Bonspiel! Sign up sheet is next to the schedule on the bulletin board outside of the Committee Room (Main Floor of the Club).

Don't forget to enter our "Name the Flag" contest (Page 10-11 in the PIC program). The PIC has hosted teams from 24 countries, states and territories. Name them and a randomly drawn correct entry will win a prize!

Did You Know? Cloverdale Third Jenn Routliffe has a Border-Collie named "Sweep"!

Colorado Lead Al Leiser helped start an outdoor curling club in Nederland, Colorado (at elevation 8,597 feet), after discovering curling in 2002 while attending the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Eddie Van Halen playing at the PIC?

Jim Smoltz, skip of the Oregon Men's PIC team, performs throughout the Portland metro area as "Top Jimmy", an Eddie Van Halen impersonator in Van Halen tribute bands. Jim is a die-hard fan of Van Halen. "My introduction to Van Halen was hearing 'Eruption' for the first time (from the first VH album). I started playing guitar when I was 8 years old--when Van Halen came out--and I was in awe. I said, 'I wanna do that someday.'"

Jim started playing a variety of 80s covers with his band "Drop Dead Legs" in 2002, but the band eventually focused primarily on Van Halen. With his wife Kim playing the role of David Lee

Roth (!) they entertained loving crowds in local bars and at regional festivals several times each year. In July of 2011 they even played a benefit concert to raise money to help build Oregon's first dedicated curling facility, Evergreen Curling Club.

Last year Jim joined a new Van Halen tribute band, Un-chained, which has been receiving rave reviews throughout the region. They play all the hits you love from 80s radio and MTV. Jim embraces his role as Eddie Van Halen with all his heart, and his playing is phenomenal.

Meet the Teams

Minnesota Women – Duluth Curling Club

Skip Jamie Kraus has been curling for 12 years, and her favorite curling moment was winning the Minnesota state club playdowns by coming back from a 6-point deficit. Fun Fact: "I once dressed as a water tower for Halloween."

Third Zoë Meisinger says she quit her job to come here! Favorite curling moment: qualifying for the playoffs at Club Nationals in Fairbanks, Alaska. Fun fact: "I wanted to be an astronaut when I was little, but now I'm afraid of outer space."

Second Mary Shields was on a bronze medal USA team at the 2015 World Senior Curling Championships in Sochi, Russia. Fun fact: "My favorite TV theme song is the theme from Dallas."

Lead Kris Lee has been curling for 8 years, and her favourite curling moment was winning her first bonspiel with her son. Fun Fact: "If I could only eat one food the rest of my life, it would be pumpkin pie."

Arizona Men – Coyotes Curling Club, Tempe (Phoenix)

Skip Michael Siggins began curling after the 2010 Olympics. "In the beginning I was just a casual, once-a-week curler--there for the "broomstacking" (drinking) more than the curling, but after the Coyotes Curling Club opened their dedicated facility in 2014, I jumped in with both feet and curling became a huge part of my life."

Third Adam Endicott says the highlight of his curling career so far was representing California at the 2012 PIC. He joined his first league after the 2010 Olympics, and played in the 2014 USA Mixed Nationals.

Second Carl Thompson grew up in the U.K. and moved to the U.S. in 2001. He watched curling during the 2010 and 2014 Olympics, Googled "curling in Arizona", and discovered there was a club in his area. He's also on the ice crew at the club.

Lead Tom Dukerich first saw curling while watching TV on a business trip in Vancouver in 2013! A year later a co-worker prodded Tom to attend a 'Learn To Curl' event. "Even though I was horrible, that was all I needed to be fully in."

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