

The 20th Anniversary Pacific International Cup is Underway!

Four men's teams—Royal City, Arizona, Comox Valley, and Oregon's Team Schaak—are off to perfect 2 and 0 starts after Day 1 of the Pacific International Cup at the Richmond Curling Centre.

It was a very good day for the 2016 PIC champions, Comox Valley's Team Schmidt. They won both of their games--beating 2014 PIC champion and 2018 BC silver medalist Darren Frycz of Langley 7-1 in their first game, then blanking the Yukon's Terry Miller 8-0 in the evening game, thanks to a 5 in the first end. But just as important, the team won Wednesday's 50/50 draw!

Arizona's Bob LeClair and his Coyotes Club teammates showed they'll be one of the teams to beat (again) with a 7-4 win over Alaska, and an 11-2 win over India. LeClair—now living in Arizona after years of curling in Ontario and Manitoba --was the 2018 PIC silver medalist (with a completely different squad).

Oregon skip Doug Schaak beat Nevada 7-5, then scored a

hard-fought 7-4 win over Michigan. Royal City is the only undefeated Lower Mainland team after a 7-3 win over Abbotsford and a 5-3 win over Oregon's Team Shuttleworth.

India did win their PIC debut (see page 2) in the afternoon draw, scoring 3 in the 8th end to beat Australia's Matt Panoussi 7-6.

Women's teams played just one game each on Day 1. It was a perfect day for Arizona's Coyotes Club, as their women's team beat Alaska 14-4. Nine-time PIC participant Jennifer Westhagen and her Australia team beat Nevada 9-4. Thursday's first draw begins at 8 AM, with all 16 women's teams in action.

Wednesday's Opening Ceremony featured another PIC tradition: Richmond wheelchair curler Samantha Siu singing 5 different National Anthems—Australia, Brazil, U.S.A., Canada, and India (in Hindi).

PIC Teams Happy With Return to Balanced Pools

This year's 20th Anniversary Pacific International Cup marks a welcome return to the PIC's original format—without a "B.C. Pool" and "International Pool". Since 2008 the PIC had determined the B.C. qualifiers for the Canadian Curling Club Championships, necessitating the pool format. While it was necessary to keep the B.C. competition fair, it unfortunately denied international teams of their chances to compete against B.C. and Yukon teams—which traditionally has been

a major incentive for international teams reaching the PIC.

Curl BC now holds a separate B.C. Club Championship, with the top 3 men's and women's teams earning berths in the PIC. Two other teams from Vancouver Island were given sponsor's exemptions. The PIC also invited the Yukon to send two entries. Bottom line: each pool now has 4 Canadian teams and 4 International teams!

PIC BITERS

Don't forget to sign up for the World's One-End Bonspiel Championship!

Starts Saturday, Apr 20th at 7 pm.

Sign up is outside of the Committee Office - Sign Up by Friday at 10 pm.



Beata Bowes (left) and Katherine Hayes (right) sweeping in first draw action.

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Team India wins their first game in the PIC!



Team India Third Girithar (Giri) A.S. in action

Welcome Team India!

The PIC has become an incubator for curlers of many nationalities wanting a taste of competition, and this year is no different. For the first time, a team representing India will take part. This follows earlier PIC invites to teams representing China, Chinese-Taipei, Singapore (last year), and Brazil.

There was a clue of India's arrival in last year's *PIC Times* "Meet the Teams" feature on California. Skip P.N. Raju mentioned he was involved in bringing curling to India. This year's team is four men from India who have taken up the sport at curling clubs across the USA (connecting three years ago through a Facebook page Raju created), but are committed to developing the sport back home. Team members have organized floor/street curling events in India, teaching curling to approximately one thousand school & college students in various parts of India. Working with the

World Curling Federation & the Indian Olympic Association, they are trying to get India recognised as an official WCF member.

Raju has been dreaming of skipping the Indian national team since the first time the sport was broadcast live in India--during the 2006 Winter Olympics. He didn't throw his first rock until over 8 years later when he moved to San Francisco for work.

Third Girithar (Giri) A. S. was born and raised in Chennai, India, and has curled for three years at the Windy City and Chicago Curling Clubs. Second Vinay Goenka has been curling for six years as a member of the Ardsley Curling Club in New York. And lead Kishan Vasant--originally from Chennai--took up curling at the University of Denver and currently plays at the Denver Curling Club.

Meet the Teams

Minnesota Women - Chaska Curling Center

Skip Tracy Lindgren and **Lead Rachel Orvik** are the most experienced members of this year's Minnesota team. They are also members of the Duluth Curling Club (the oldest curling club in the USA).

Third Sapa Carlson and **Second Thora Eriksmoen** only started curling in 2015 when the Chaska Curling Center was opened, and both were on Minnesota's team last year.

The **Chaska Curling Center** is a year-round facility with over 1,200 members—and was recently named the National Training Center for USA Curling.

Washington Men – Granite Curling Club

Won a 5 team double-knockout playdown to qualify for the PIC.

Skip – Stephen Grant is in his 6th season of curling and played in the 2016 PIC (International Pool bronze medal team). He also played in the 2015 U.S. Mixed Doubles Championship.

Third - Jeff Bruce is in his 5th season of curling.

Second – Will Eastler has been curling for just one year.

Lead – Will Dimmit has been curling for a year and a half.

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