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**To:** [tomfitzgerald@verizon.net](mailto:tomfitzgerald@verizon.net);  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** [Seattle Granite Curling Club] Washington's Beighton rink wins opening game of 2010 Junior National Curling Championship in Bemidji, MN  
**Date:** Sunday, January 24, 2010 10:32:50 AM  
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## Press Release

**Sean Beighton team defeats Matt Birklied's Team Alaska 11-1 in opener at Junior National Curling Championships in Bemidji, MN  
Seattle-based team starts round robin with an impressive win**

1/23/010

For Immediate Release

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[www.curlingseattle.org](http://www.curlingseattle.org)

[www.2010juniornationals.com](http://www.2010juniornationals.com)

Sean Beighton's curling team (*Sean Beighton, Derrick McLean, Sam Galey, Joe Purvis, coach Murray Beighton*) representing Washington state, began round robin play on Saturday evening at the 2010 Junior National Curling Championships with a big 11-1 win over Matt Birklied's Team Alaska. The round robin portion of the tournament continues through Thursday, with the top 4 teams advancing to the playoff round. The boys finals are set for Saturday, January 30th at the Bemidji Curling Club in Bemidji, Minnesota. Scores, photos and updated stats can be found at: ( [www.2010juniornationals.com](http://www.2010juniornationals.com) ) The winner of the U.S. Junior Nationals moves on to represent the United States at the 2010 World Junior Curling Championships in Flims, Switzerland, March 5-14, 2010.

Beighton (Edmonds, WA) and teammates Derrick McLean (Bothell, WA) Sam Galey (Seattle, WA) Joe Purvis (Kenmore, WA) jumped out to a big lead against Alaska on Saturday night with three points in the first end and a huge steal of four points in the second end. Leading 7-0, Beighton coasted to an easy 11-1 victory, sealing it with three points in the seventh end.

Team Washington is seeded second, and is one of 10 boys teams competing for the junior national championship. All four team members curl out of Seattle's Granite Curling Club ([www.curlingseattle.org](http://www.curlingseattle.org)) and are looking to improve on last year's junior nationals appearance where they finished in fourth place after an extra end loss in the playoffs in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Other teams competing in the boys division include Minnesota 1, Minnesota 2, Wisconsin 1 and Wisconsin 2, New York, North Dakota, Massachusetts and Illinois.

The Granite Curling Club is the only dedicated curling facility on the west coast of the U.S., and has been operating in its present facility since 1961. The Granite Curling Club has been the home to more national championship teams (35) than any other U.S. curling club. The most recent champions are the Sharon Vukich-Mike Calcagno rink, the 2010 Mixed Doubles National champions and the Sharon Vukich rink, the 2010 U.S. Senior Women's National champions.

For more information on the Olympic sport of curling, please visit [www.curlingseattle.org](http://www.curlingseattle.org) or [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org). For questions concerning this release, or for specific interview or footage requests, please contact Tom FitzGerald at 206-550-2080, or [tomfitzgerald@verizon.net](mailto:tomfitzgerald@verizon.net)