Jamie Sinclair and John Shuster continued their undefeated marches through the 2019 USA Curling National Championships after securing more wins Tuesday at Wings Event Center. Shuster and teammates Chris Plys (Duluth, Minn.), Matt Hamilton (McFarland, Wis.) and John Landsteiner (Duluth, Minn.) scored two points with the final stone of their game to defeat Jed Brundidge’s team, 6-5.

“I feel like we’ve used more energy in the last two games than the first four combined. Why that is, I don’t know, I guess just because they’re tighter games, and there’s a larger spread early on in the game and you get more relaxed probably, yeah it takes a lot out of us, but I think we’re ready to get two in tomorrow,” said Landsteiner.

The win improves Team Shuster to 6-0 as they inch toward securing a playoff berth.

“We just make sure we’re focused on our game and not worried about who we’re playing,” Landsteiner said. “Everybody is out here to do their best and we have to do the same, otherwise if you let yourself down even for a little bit they can come back and score one or score two and, boom, you lost game over.

Todd Birr and Rich Ruohonen also notched wins to keep pace with Shuster’s rink as both teams improved to 5-1 with three games remaining in the round robin to determine Friday’s playoff teams.

By Terry Davis, Daily Pebble Editor

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Burr and teammates Greg Johnson (Appleton, Wis.), Hunter Clawson (Minneapolis, Minn.) and Tom O’Connor (Robbinsdale, Minn.) picked up another extra-end win as they made a takeout to defeat Brandon Corbett’s squad, 7-5.

Sinclair and her team of Sarah Anderson (Minneapolis, Minn.), Taylor Anderson (Minneapolis, Minn.) and Monica Walker (St. Paul, Minn.) earned two wins on Tuesday to improve to 5-0 with two games left in the round robin.

Nina Roth’s team is a game back after defeating Cory Christensen’s rink, 10-3, last night. Roth (McFarland, Wis.) and her team of Tabitha Peterson (St. Paul, Minn.), Becca Hamilton (McFarland, Wis.) and Tara Peterson (Eagan, Minn.) took the lead in the third end and countered with a game-changing steal of three in the fourth end when Christensen’s final draw was light.

“We did come out strong this game. We had better rock placement than some previous games. We’re honing in on draw weight, and we actually got a little bit lucky with a few misses from them where we capitalized,” Tabitha Peterson said. “The goal is to always put your rocks in good position and to capitalize.

Team Roth is now sitting in second place with a 4-1 record.

Continued on Page 3
Jared Allen spent over a decade imposing his will on opposing NFL linemen and quarterbacks. Now, the illustrious, former defensive end is off with a new line of work: curling. And it all started with a bet. "Curling and badminton were the two sports we haven't done that well at in the Olympics, so I made a bet with a buddy," Allen said. "I was like, 'Yeah, I'll try to become an Olympian.' So we made the bet. Badminton looked like it was going to be a little too strenuous on my back, so I was like, 'All right, we'll do curling because we only won bronze at the time.'"

"I made this thing about six months before the (2018) Olympics, and then (Team) Shuster had that amazing run and I look like a jerk." Although it may seem like Allen was being inconsiderate to the sport, the five-time Pro Bowler explained that he was just having some fun, and he tries to work hard to show some respect.

"That's why Michael (Roos) and I are here. We really threw ourselves in the deep end playing in some of the WCT (World Curling Tour) events," Allen made clear. "We played most of these guys on this ice, and we've taken our lumps. We've been practicing our technique, working on the fundamentals of the sport. I think Shuster and some of those other teams can tell we aren't being disrespectful -- we work hard at it."

Learning from players arguably at the height of their game and playing against professional football players, Allen saw some parallels between the two games. The linebacker thinks that learning a new sport or a new activity keeps everything fresh. "It feels good to have a win under our belt. We read the ice a little better this game," said Travis, a student at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, after the morning win. "I think we were just waiting to finally put all the pieces together. We were really close in all our other games. We were able to put all those pieces together this game and it worked out in the end!"

Steven Birkfild Seattle rink evened its record to 3-3 after holding off Chase Snell's team, 6-5. Mark Fenner snapped a three-game losing streak as he subbed in for Team Ruohonen's Phil Tilker at lead.

Photo by Rich Harner

from Pro Bowl to National Curling Championships

By Ian Strong, Daily Pebble Staff Writer

Jared Allen (above, right) made his on-ice debut on Tuesday during a round robin game at Wings Event Center.

they want to accomplish is playing for a spot to go to the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, China. Although the idea may be far fetched, Allen explained that the exceptional height of the goal was intentional.

"We set these goals for ourselves to see if we could accomplish them," Allen said. "It started off as a really funny story, but I've already made close friends. Plus I get to keep my mind fresh. Learning a new sport or a new activity keeps everything fresh. But take it as you learn. Keep learning and hopefully you start having some success."

"It was tough not playing this team all year. Individually we know all the players. But we didn't really know what their game plan was going to be like," Peterson said.

Stephanie Senneker's squad stole the winning points to defeat Annmarie Dubberstein's rink, 8-6, and move into a tie with Team Christensen for third place with 3-2 records.

"We knew going into today that we were going to have to win both games but winning one was definitely required," said Rebecca Andrew, vice skip for Team Senner. "We just wanted to play our own game. We're a pretty aggressive team in general and we knew if we did play aggressively, they're大庆 (Dubberstein) a younger team so maybe we could catch them a little on a couple shots. They're a young team. They're a solid team and they played really well tonight. Especially the first half of the game, they definitely out-played us so we rallied late and came back and win." Ariel Traxler's foursome had a good day at the office on Tuesday as they secured two wins.

"It feels good to have a win under our belt. We read the ice a little better this game," said Traxler, a student at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, after the morning win. "I think we were just waiting to finally put all the pieces together. We were really close in all our other games. We were able to put all those pieces together this game and it worked out in the end!"

Men's Standings:
- John Shuster (Superior, Wis.) 6-0
- Todd Birr (Ham Lake, Minn.) 5-1
- Rich Ruohonen (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) 5-1
- Steven Birkfild (Seattle) 3-3
- Mark Fenner (Benimdi, Minn.) 3-3
- Brandon Corbett (Hamilton, Ontario) 2-4
- Scott Dunnam (Dresher, Pa.) 2-4
- Chase Snell (Medfield, Mass.) 2-4
- Jed Brundidge (West St. Paul, Minn.) 1-5
- Sam Strouse (Midland, Mich.) 1-5

Women's Standings:
- Jamie Sinclair (Matarick, Ontario) 5-0
- Nina Roth (McFarland, Wis.) 4-1
- Cory Christensen (Duluth, Minn.) 3-2
- Stephanie Senneker (Port Huron, Mich.) 3-2
- Ann Dubberstein (Portage, Wis.) 2-3
- Ariel Traxler (Fairbanks, Alaska) 2-3
- Ann Podoll (Fargo, N.D.) 1-4
- Kim Rhyme (Minneapolis, Minn.) 0-5

7 a.m. Results:
- Traxler 13, Podoll 5
- Roth 8, Dubberstein 4
- Sinclair 9, Rhyme 3
- Christensen 9, Senneker 5

8 a.m. Results:
- Traxler 13, Podoll 5
- Roth 8, Dubberstein 4
- Sinclair 9, Rhyme 3
- Christensen 9, Senneker 5

2 p.m. Men's Results:
- Ruohonen 9, Strouse 2
- Birkfild 6, Sinnett 5
- Birr 7, Corbet 5 (EE)
- Fenner 7, Dunnam 4
- Shuster 6, Brundidge 5