

THE 6 "C's" OF ARIZONA

BY ERIC KOWAL

Officially Arizona has only five "C's" – Climate, Citrus, Copper, Cattle & Cotton, but the Coyotes Curling Club (CCC) in Tempe is looking to add a sixth "C"... Curling! Since the self-funded & volunteer based buildout of their dedicated facility 8 years ago there's been a lot written, shared on social media, television & experienced. However Coyotes is now seeing the benefits of that hard work as many of their "Pups" have turned into a full-fledged "Pack".

It's no secret recruitment during an Olympic year is easier, but given the circumstances of Covid-19 it presented a new set of challenges from four years ago. This year Coyotes managed to add ~100 new members 50/50 part-time & full time. But their success doesn't stop there.

The Coyotes Curling Club's transition from a hockey arena to a dedicated facility has also been beneficial to multiple other clubs in the West as they helped lay the blueprint for clubs such as the Southern California Curling Center & San Francisco Bay Area Curling Club. Getting these dedicated facilities online has helped to grow the sport overall and found new passion for curlers that have taken a prolonged hiatus from the game.

This year was also a banner year on the ice, very literally.



Team Burton (pictured left) won MoPac Women's for the 4th consecutive time & finished with their 4th consecutive bronze at Club Nationals. Team Maxie won the MoPac Mixed (Four Person) title and skip Fred Maxie also played vice for Team LeClair (pictured center) who won the US Senior Men's & qualified for the playoffs at Senior World's. Team Aronson won the MoPac 5U in Denver and Team Siggins captured their first MoPac Men's title, but their second Club Nationals gold medal (pictured front right). Team Aubrey also won bronze at US Senior Women's.

For those keeping track, that is four MoPac banners, two USCA banners & four USCA medals (2 Gold and 2 Bronze). One of the amazing feats of this is most of the players on these teams had never thrown a stone, swept a draw or called line before learning how to curl at Coyotes Curling Club. The benefit of a dedicated facility and volunteer membership has proven to be winning combination in the desert.

CCC also hosts a variety of open bonspiels, an annual cash-spiel, wheelchair events, social leagues, mixed doubles & viewing parties. We encourage anyone interested in experiencing the sixth "C" of Arizona to give Coyotes Curling Club a visit.

