

## **2017 Great Lakes Curling Association Under-18 Championships**

The first regional Under-18 (U18) event took place at the Detroit Curling Club between December 27th and 29th, 2016, to determine the Great Lakes Curling Association U18 Champions. The U18 event was created this season along with a national-level change that made the traditional junior competition no longer regionally-based. It is open to teams from within each region having players all under 18 years old and consists of a men's and women's division. Winners earn a spot representing their region at the United States Curling Association U18 National Championships.

In total ten teams participated in the GLCA U18 Championships; there were five men's teams and five women's teams with players representing seven different clubs across the region. This level of participation is an exciting increase over regional entries in recent years for junior curlers.

On the men's side, the McDonald team skipped by Andrew McDonald from the Mayfield Curling Club in Cleveland, OH, with the rest of the team from the Midland Curling Club, finished the round robin undefeated. The Carlson team, all from the Midland Curling Club, only had one loss through the round robin forcing a playoff game due to a double-loss provision for the event. In the end the McDonald team came away with the victory and the 2017 GLCA U18 Men's Championship.

The women's division saw the Blaske team, with players from Lansing, Mayfield, Columbus, and Fort Wayne, finish the round robin with only one loss while the Willertz team from Midland went undefeated. As with the men's teams there was a playoff game and the Willertz team won becoming the 2017 GLCA U18 Women's Champions.

Both the McDonald and Willertz teams are repeat champions, having represented the Great Lakes Curling Association at last season's USCA Junior National Championships in Willmar, MN. In March of 2017 the McDonald, Carlson, Willertz and Blaske teams will all be headed to the Milwaukee Curling Club for the inaugural USCA U18 National Championships. This will be largest representation of GLCA curlers at a national event to date. Congratulations and good curling to all!

### **2017 GLCA U18 Champions (left to right):**

Andrew McDonald, Sam Strouse, Ian Strong, J.T. Burnett, Rachel Weldy, Madelyn Graves, Delaney Strouse, Maya Willertz



(Not pictured: Coaches Scott Strouse & Mike Graves)

**2017 GLCA U18 Men's Runners-Up (left to right):**  
Austin Carlson, Nick Soto, Anderson Parets, Sam Willertz



(Not pictured: Coach Peter Carlson)

**2017 GLCA U18 Women's Runners-Up (left to right):**  
Claire Blaske, Kaitlin Murphy, Emma Rau, Kaya Ray, Amy Verway-Cohen



(Not pictured: Coach Dave O'Neil)