

CENTRESPORT

Daring to succeed

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World Chance for Barbara

CSIS curler, Barbara McFarlane from Dunblane has qualified for next month's World Junior Curling Championships in Minnesota, USA (3-11 March) after helping team Reid win the Scottish Junior Championships in Perth on Sunday.

It had not been the best of starts for the team comprising Sarah Reid (SIS), Eve Muirhead (TFIS), Barbara McFarlane (CSIS) and Sarah Macintyre (HIS). But their loss in the first game of the week prompted them to an unbroken run through the rest of the competition, culminating in their 7-5 defeat of Team Morrison in the final.

"Losing that first game spurred us on to succeed in all the others and finally win it," said 21 year old McFarlane, whose older sister, Judith competed in the 2003 World Junior Curling Championships. "All the matches were close, the teams were all very good. It was a good week and we all played very well."

That victory secures the team a place at the World Junior Championships in Eveleth, Minnesota - quite an achievement for the foursome who only assembled this year.

"I played with Sarah Reid two years ago, but this is the first time the four of us have played together and we have gelled really well," said McFarlane, who is in her last year as a junior. Backing McFarlane is the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and the Central Scotland Institute of Sport.

"We get funding as part of the RCCC's national junior squad, which helps with training and competitions," she said. "The Central Institute has been a great support, providing us with time on the ice at Stirling Ice Rink.

Alan Hannah coaches us on a regular basis and we get Strength & Conditioning training in the gym, which makes a big help, especially with stamina. We also get nutritional support."

"Winning the juniors was the stepping stone," added McFarlane. "Our aim now is to get a medal at the Worlds."



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