

## Press release

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### **Three maiden titles on Day 1 in Kolomna**

Vanessa Herzog (AUT), Ronald Mulder (NED) and Lotte van Beek (NED) won their first major international title on Day 1 of the ISU European Single Distance Speed Skating Championships in Kolomna on Friday. Herzog and Mulder took gold in the ladies' and men's 500m, while Van Beek grabbed the 1500m title. Denis Yuskov (RUS) crowned himself king of Europe in the 1500m.

#### **Inaugural European distance title for Herzog**

Herzog took the first ever European single distance title in the ladies' 500m. The 22-year-old Austrian sprinter was the only lady to break the 38 barrier, finishing in 37.69 seconds.

Angelina Golikova (RUS) took silver in 38.04 and last season's European sprint champion Karolina Erbanova (CZE) took bronze in 38.18.

Golikova had the fastest opener of the field in 10.49 in her race versus Herzog, who was just 0.02 seconds behind after the first 100 metres. The Austrian made perfect use of her outer lane start, taking advantage of the draft behind her pair mate on the cross-over.

Herzog is the first Austrian to win gold in a major speed skating competition since 1999, when Emese Hunyady won the 1500m at the World Single Distances Championships.

#### **Mulder near perfect**

Ronald Mulder became the first ever European 500m Champion. Mika Poutala (FIN) and Pavel Kulizhnikov (RUS) took silver and bronze.

Mulder skated a near perfect race. Starting in the outer lane, the Dutchman had the fastest opener of the field in 9.61. Coming from behind pair-mate Ruslan Murashov's (RUS) back, Mulder managed to maintain his pace in a sharp final inner turn to finish in 34.80. Murashov set 35.28 to end up ninth.

Kulizhnikov opened in 9.70. The Russian world record holder was faster than Mulder in the full lap, but came 0.05 seconds short of gold.

Poutala equaled Kulizhnikov's 34.85 in the final pair, but the 34-year-old Finnish sprinter was four thousandths of a second faster than Kulizhnikov to take the silver medal.

#### **Superb final lap for Van Beek**

A superb final lap handed Lotte van Beek gold in the ladies' 1500m. Yekaterina Shikhova (RUS) and Marrit Leenstra (NED) took silver and bronze.

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Van Beek, bronze medalist at the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, was the first of the favorites to take the ice.

After a 26.2 opener the 27-year-old Dutchwoman maintained a flat schedule. With 28.7, 30.0 and 30.4 full laps, she finished in 1:55.52. Apart from Van Beek, no one was able to skate a final lap under 31 seconds.

Shikhova was paired with Leenstra and both ladies started faster than Van Beek. In a very tight race they were still 0.3 seconds ahead of Van Beek at the 1100m mark, but they were more than a second slower in the final. Shikhova finished in 1:56.57 and Leenstra was only 0.01 behind in 1:56.58.

### **Yuskov king on home ice**

Denis Yuskov (RUS) won the European Race of the Kings. With 1 minute and 44.53 seconds, he was the only one to skate under 1:45 in the 1500m. Dutchmen Thomas Krol and Koen Verweij took silver and bronze.

Yuskov faced Krol in the ninth pair. Marcel Bosker (NED) was the fastest man at that moment with 1:46.50.

With 23.30, Krol had the fastest opener of the field. The Dutchman started in the outer lane and put pressure on Yuskov at the first crossover. The two skaters were almost level, and after a close crossing Yuskov had more speed and kept up his pace over Krol.

The Russian went on at a staggering pace to finish in 1:43.53. Krol crossed the line in 1:45.20.

Yuskov's training partner Koen Verweij (NED) took the ice in the final pair. Already at the 700m split, it was clear that Verweij would not be able to match Yuskov. Clocking 1:46.40 Verweij ended up taking the bronze.

Full [results and classifications](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#EuroSpeed** and **#SpeedSkating** and watch the live stream on the [ISU Skating Channel](#).

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