

QUICK QUOTES

Ladies, Free Skating (warm up group 4)

Maria Sotskova (RUS) 2017 ISU Grand Prix Final silver medalist

Of course I am disappointed about my mistake (fall on Lutz), because I am a perfectionist, but I just want to move on. The most important competitions are still ahead, so we will analyze what happened and maybe change something in the training process so it would not happen again. I was really happy skating here, because I saw judges were sitting and watching with soft faces and of course the support of the audience was incredible. It was a first time in life when I experienced that support. It was like in Olympic Games in Sochi when I watched on tv how the audience supported our Russian skaters. It really pushed me going forward. (on how she managed to get over the fall) Because of the audience. When they sighed loud was even distressed at first, as I didn't understand what had happened. But then they started to applaud and this gave me more power. (on going to Olympic Games) We don't speak about that, but of course everybody understands what kind of season is this and where we need to show our best. Everything we do is for one big goal.

Nicole Rajicova (SVK) 2017 European Championships 6th

That was definitely a fight. I know I'm capable of much better, but it was not too bad. It wasn't my absolute worst. I'm definitely tired, so that's something to work on. I'm going to keep doing run-throughs, especially when I'm really tired, so that I'm prepared for the Olympics. This season I've been working much harder and drilling those run-throughs. That's given me increased confidence, so I know if I rotate all my jumps I'll stay standing up. With the exception of that last popped jump (double loop)!

Carolina Kostner (ITA) Five-time European Champion, 2012 European bronze medalist

It was not at all my best performance and it's a pity because my body's ready and the practices were easy-going and mostly flawless and then you get into the competition and it just slips away. The good part is that other than the performance tonight the whole week was magnificent. To sum up I can go home with much more positives than negatives and I know what I need to work on for the Olympics. (on including the triple Lutz) My goal is find the best version of myself. I envision the program with the triple Lutz but I can't think I will just put it in the program and it will just work. I want to keep it in the program in future. We'll see. (on her costume) We've changed the costume because we have been thinking of how we can underline the music, the exotic part of Debussy. That's how we came up with the color and the design. It has the cut-out pattern on it which was inspired by the poster of the first ballet of L'après-midi d'un faune danced by Nijinsky.

Alina Zagitova (RUS) 2017 ISU Grand Prix Final & World Junior Champion

I was nervous today because there was a long break between training this morning and the competition. But today I wanted to skate a clean program and to enjoy it. I think today there was even more support than in the short program. I could hear kids shouting and people shouting "Go on Alina!". I had my toy from China with me which helped. At the Olympics we will be competing under the white flag, but we are still 'Athletes from Russia'. In our souls, we know. (on winning) I did not expect that, I haven't really realized. To skate at home is on the one hand harder, because you don't want to let down your home and your fans. On the other hand it is easier, because you get so much support.

Evgenia Medvedeva (RUS) 2016 & 2017 European & World Champion

My main victory is that I am standing here (after the injury). For all athletes, but for me too, their performances improve from competition to competition. The bigger the break in competing, the worse it is. But I am happy and when the whole audience is shouting your name it is simply incredible. When something that dear to my heart happens, I just close my eyes. I don't want to leave that moment. I love the entire sport, and that I am here, that I am competing.