

QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Short Dance (warm up groups 1 & 5)

Malin Malmberg/Thomas Nordahl (SWE) 2018 National Champions

Malmberg: We were nervous at the beginning but then it was good to be here. (on why there have been no ice dance pairs at European Championships for 33 years) There are not many ice dance coaches in Sweden. Alik (Alik Stergiadu their coach) came from Russia to Sweden but she lives in the north and we live in Stockholm, which makes it hard. It would be lovely to have another couple to train with. There's a lower level couple but we're mostly skating alone.

Nordahl: It's hard working with a coach who lives so far away. Sometimes she comes to Stockholm but mostly we post videos to her after practice and then she sends us feed-back.

Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro (RUS) 2018 National bronze medalists

Zagorski: Everyone is so welcoming here. We can hear the audience supporting us, and our families are here watching which is great. We are pleased overall. It was not our best performance but it wasn't bad. It is definitely easier skating in front of a home crowd. Not everything is foreign and different. We skated here two years ago at the Cup of Russia so we already know the ice.

Guerreiro: We managed everything, apart from a few little errors, but for our first time at Europeans we are pleased. We definitely skate better in training, but tomorrow is a new day and we will try to skate even cleaner than. (on skating in front of a home crowd) The audience in Russia is always good.

Kavita Lorenz/Joti Polizoakis (GER) – withdrawn due to illness (he has the flu)

Alisa Agafonova/Alper Ucar (TUR) 2018 National Champions

Agafonova: We skated our best and it was really fine. It is good preparation for the Olympics which is our main goal. This is our last Europeans and we want to do well. We will retire after Worlds. It will be very emotional for us. (on celebrating her birthday which was last Monday) This week we're just skating but maybe we'll have a celebration later.

Ucar: Unfortunately, our marks are down because of the timing in the Rhumba. We got Level 1 and we expected Level 3. Other than that all the levels are good. (on celebrating his 33rd birthday today) We always have our birthdays at Europeans so the celebration will wait. (on life after their retirement) Turkey will continue to be in ice dance. We have made a good beginning for the next couples and they will have an example in front of them which we didn't have because we were the first.

Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin (ESP) 2018 National silver medalists

Hurtado: We did very good today. It's the direction we are looking for. We want to own what we have been working on. At the last few competitions we have been very tense so we are happy to get rid of the tensions and let ourselves relax. Our goal is to finish in the top 10 here.

Khaliavin: (on being selected to represent Spain at the Olympics) We are so happy. It was our main goal but now we have new goals. We will try to do our best here and try to achieve a 2nd spot for Spain for next season. But that's not our main goal. Our main goal is to skate good and do good programs. We want to show how we improve from competition to competition.

Angelique Abachkina/Louis Thauron (FRA) 2018 National bronze medalists

Thauron: It was great. I think we've never skated in such a big arena before and the feeling was different right away. It was our best performance of the short dance of the season, although we did not get a personal best score. (on Europeans determining which second French dance team will go to the Olympic Games) We try not to think about it and want just to perform like we can do in training. But it is true, this competition is crucial for us.