

QUICK QUOTES

Men, Free Skating (warm up groups 1, 2 & 3)

Romain Ponsart (FRA) 2018 National bronze medalist

It was really good. Since December I have been doing really good practices and I've improved so much, but then in competitions I have been feeling stiff and nervous. So I was getting upset. I was away from competition for one and a half years because of surgery on my ankle, so when the French Federation gave me the opportunity to compete I am very happy. This year they gave me the Grand Prix in France and they saw me at practice like, 'Oh my God, you're going to fly at competition!' But then I got there and I was stiff again. And it gets in your head that maybe you're not made for competition. Even in the short program here I felt stiff and fell on the quad. I got off the ice and thought why do I work so hard? So it is good to do well today. Chafik (Besseglier) is going to the Olympics and then it is up to him about Worlds. If he doesn't want to go to Worlds I hope to maintain my own level and qualify for the Federation to pick me.

Chafik Besseglier (FRA) 2018 National Champion

I'm happy with my performance because I fought for it but there are a lot of little mistakes, like a hand down or a step out which cost a lot of points. But I'm happy with what I produced. But I'm not in full shape yet and I hope for the Olympics I will be in in better shape. (on his illness) I had a pneumothorax infection and was in hospital and couldn't train for a month. I started training again in the middle of November but I am still having trouble with my breathing. (on going to Worlds) I will see how I am physically. I am planning on going to Worlds but I don't want to push my body too much so I will see how I am after the Olympics.

Paul Fentz (GER) 2018 National Champion

I am extremely disappointed and have no words. It was an epic fail. After the loop (he fell) I had no energy, my arms were tired, but tried to not give up. In practice things worked, but today I just wasn't there physically. But defeats are part of the sport, that is the way it is. I will now need some time to think through what happened today.

Michal Brezina (CZE) 2013 European bronze medalist

I feel good. All the program until the Lutz was perfect, I think, it was very good. I felt like I was in the zone then with the Lutz it was a stupid mistake. I didn't go all the way down, I tried to save it at the end and just went half way down. But it was perfect otherwise. I think the people enjoyed it too, they were clapping from the beginning. Not every program gets that reaction. I am very happy with the way I expressed myself. That is something which is getting better and better. And you can see it in the second mark. It is the second or third time I am getting over 80 (81.06) in my second mark.

Alexander Majorov (SWE) 2018 National Champion

I felt good after the program, almost everything worked, which was nice because I was irritated after the Short Program. I did a three turn out of the axel combination so after that I thought to myself that I cannot make any more mistakes, but it was a good program. I believe that the music in my program was playing a little fast, I had to try and keep up with it, for example in the spin I was stressed that I have time to do the whole level 4.

Moris Kvitelashvili (GEO) 2017 European Championships 6th

Just nothing worked today. It was a failure.

Alexei Bychenko (ISR) 2016 European silver medalist

I was in a bad mood after my short program because I did not skate how I wanted and I did not get the levels I wanted. So I tried fighting for every element and tried to complete the maximum possible. I made



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about 90% and 10% were mistakes. Of course I will now work on these for the Olympics. (on his music from 'Pagliacci' by Leoncavallo) This is one of my favorite pieces of music. My two favorite programs were to this and Les Miserables. The passion in this music works with my style of skating.

Alexander Samarin (RUS) 2016 World Junior bronze medalist

First of all I would like to thank all the team, coaches and choreographer who worked a lot with me. The audience, who gave unbelievable support and feed me with emotions. (On his performance) It's a shame not everything came as it was planned, I didn't do everything. But the whole event was good. It was very nice to perform at home, but at the same time it was a big responsibility. I was ready, there were some small issues, but in general I was ready. Maybe because there were too many competitions and I was drawn out emotionally. But all this is an experience, it should help me in future.