

PRESS CONFERENCE

Ice Dance, after Free Dance

Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron (FRA) 2018 European Champions

Papadakis: (on the meaning of each European medal) It is our fourth gold medal at Europeans and even though the color is the same, it has always been a different emotion every time. The first time was a surprise, but now it is something we are looking for. Every time there are difficulties and different goals and successes. I think it will always be different every year. (on whether they will compete at the Olympic Team event) It's something we never did. It was new in Sochi but we weren't there. We don't know how it's going to happen. At the minute we are focusing on our individual competition so we'll see how it goes and it's an interesting part of the competition I think.

Cizeron: (on today's performance) We had such a great feeling on the ice today. We felt like the public was really warm and really helpful. It was a pretty hard week and the public helped us get through it. We are pretty happy with our score and we feel like it's a really good base to work on. We've improved a few things and we still have a few things to improve, so we feel really happy about today. (on their music choice for the Free Dance, "Moonlight Sonata") When we chose that music we both had the feeling that it felt right. It felt like a song we could relate to. It's such a deep feeling to skate to that piece of music. It was a really big challenge to do choreography that fits with that music. It is such a beautiful piece of music that we really wanted to honor it. (on the 10am start for the dance event at the Olympic Games) It's not the most usual schedule. I hope jetlag is going to help a bit. When we get to Asia we normally wake up pretty early. But we'll train for it. We'll start practicing more often in the morning. We don't really have a choice, we can't really ask to move it. Someone has to compete in the morning and this time it's our turn.

Ekaterina Bobrova/Dmitri Soloviev (RUS) 2018 European silver medalists

Bobrova: (on how their preparation for the Olympics will differ from their preparation for the Sochi Olympics) These past four years since Sochi have been like a small lifetime. We have completely changed. We are not the same Katia and Dima as we were four years ago. There is no sense in comparing our preparation for Sochi with Korea, because we have different aims, it is completely different. It is not a simple situation. We are still waiting for our invitation and we hope to go to our third Olympics. (on whether they will receive an invite to the Olympic Games) As you may know, 28th January is when Russian athletes will receive their invites from the Russian Sports Federation. Regarding figure skating, I am sure everyone the Russian Federation wants to send will get an invitation. An interesting moment for us, well it was a not pleasant story about Meldonium. It was not a simple situation. It was not a doping issue. I was not guilty. I was cleared of everything. We did not compete at Worlds, because we were suspended, not disqualified. I have no relationship with doping. In any case we really hope and we are confident to get an invitation. (on the meaning of each of their European medals) We started our journey with a silver medal. We were really happy with that first medal. The second one was silver, but we got a small gold medal in the short dance, which was great. Then we got gold in a very tough fight. We won with a difference of 0.11 points. Then there was a little break because we didn't compete at Europeans before or after the Olympics (in Sochi 2014). Then we came back and won bronze and we were very happy because it wasn't easy. It was a huge competition to come back after a break. Then last year we won bronze, but we got a small gold medal for the short dance, which we were very happy about. And now it is silver. We hope we will have the chance to win more in the future.

Soloviev: (on today's performance) We competed at the same venue for the Grand Prix and we felt the same warmth from the audience. I want to highlight that the audience was being really supportive to skaters of all nationalities and they were equally warm to everyone. Regarding our free dance today, I will say that it wasn't ideal. We didn't get the best score on our lift. It wasn't the best program, especially if we



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compare it with Russian Nationals. It wasn't as emotional as at Nationals. But we are happy, we will carry on working and want to thank everyone for the warmth and energy. (on finishing fourth in the short dance) We didn't expect it, because after the short we felt like we did well. But the technical specialists saw some mistakes with the Rhumba and maybe the emotional side was lacking too. But it means we will pay greater attention in the future to these mistakes and work on both the dances once we're home. (on the 10am start for the dance event at the Olympic Games) In principle our training starts early and so we will be prepared and it won't be an unusual situation. We will have acclimatized in Japan, where we're going on 27th January. We already train early in the morning so there shouldn't be a problem. Everyone is in the same situation. It will all be great.

Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin (RUS) 2018 European bronze medalists

Stepanova: (on today's performance) We are really happy to take part here and we're really pleased with the assessment of our coach and the audience. (on what the bronze medal means to them) We are very happy that we have won our second bronze medal after 2015. We have proven ourselves and we are very grateful. (on the 10am start for the dance event at the Olympics) It's not a huge problem because we already train in the morning. We are used to it.



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