



PRESS CONFERENCE

Men, after Free Skating

Javier Fernandez (ESP) 2018 European Champion

Coming here, of course I wanted to win, but we didn't know how I was going to skate and compete. But after the short I had a 12-point lead that kept me in a secure place for the free program, but you never know what's going to happen so you always try to skate your best program and not give first place away. (on the importance of the European Championships) It's a very important competition for me as a skater from Europe. It's a really important competition, even more so than the Grand Prix. It decides who is going to be the best in Europe. I really try to be in good shape and it is also good practice as after this comes the Olympics or Worlds, so I always try to prepare well and win it. When I was younger I was not at the same level, but in the last 6 years, since my first title, I always come to try and win the title. (on his short stay in Moscow) Brian (Orser) wants me back to work. We only have a few weeks until the Olympics so we need to take as many practices as possible. (on failing to make the Grand Prix final) If you have a bad Grand Prix, you're out of the Grand Prix. It's as easy as that. If you have one bad competition, you don't go to the final. I think that's what it was. In China I had a bad competition I came 6th and then I wasn't able to go to the final. I didn't have my coach (Brian Orser) there either because he was sick. I don't know, it was a bad competition. I think if I needed to have a bad competition, what better than to have it early in the season rather than later when the competitions are bigger. (on changing his costume for the free program) I changed because the other costume was too hot. The material did not let the air come through, so if it was in a hot arena like the Japan Open, it was boiling hot. This costume was a little bit more comfortable, so Bryan and I said, 'why not change the costume?' So we did. (on preparing for the Olympics) At the Olympics of course I will try to be there 100%. We still have a few more weeks of training so we will do our best to be in the best condition and try to skate the best programs of the season. That's all we can try to do.

Dmitri Aliev (RUS) 2018 European silver medalist

I evaluate my program today positively and happy. I'm really happy that I managed to compete in such a way. I was a little bit worried because I missed training today because I left my skates at the hotel. But today I showed I can compete even without training. Today I am only happy. I was really pumped up during the program so I want to say thank you to the audience, to Moscow for supporting me so strongly. (on his music choice) In fact the program is quite emotionally difficult because it is very personal to me. The theme is related to my parents. It is my life. I moved away from my parents to live alone in a big city, while my parents lived in a different city. So the story of my program is that at the start I say goodbye to them, in the middle I see them again and embrace them, and at the end I am on my own again, building my own career. (on his mature style of speech) I have never really thought about this. But I am just trying to express myself and share my emotions. The minute I think about it I lose my ability to do it! I'm not such an avid reader as you might think, but I love listening to all different types of music, like classical, and so many different types. I like films too. I love to talk with my soul, not with words, but my soul. (on competing against Javier Fernandez) Honestly, Javier has been a role model for me for a long time, even when I was just a little kid. It is an honor to be on the podium with people who are such big figures in skating, who have proved themselves, and have already made history in our sport. (on preparing for the Olympics) In my case I still haven't even thought about it because the final decision about the team (who will represent Russia) will be taken on Sunday. So I would rather not guess what will happen, but if I do go then of course I will prepare and make sure I am in my best form so I can show my maximum potential at the Olympics.

Mikhail Kolyada (RUS) 2018 European bronze medalist

(on today's performance) Like last year, the result isn't bad, but I'm not satisfied with the skate. But it will motivate me to work harder. The audience were class and I could feel their support. (on competing against Javier Fernandez) I have admired Javi (Fernandez) for a very long time. I really like him as a skater and he is a role model for me. (on preparing for the Olympics) The final team will be chosen I think on Monday. Of course it is a huge responsibility because it is a massive event that only happens once every four years, so I need to be at my best.