

## **PRESS CONFERENCE**

Ice Dance, after Short Dance

### **Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron (FRA) 1st after the Short Dance**

Papadakis: (on their body movement in the short dance) It is something we've been working on obviously because it is Latin year and moving the body is the first component of the dance. It is something we love doing and we have done a lot of work off ice with teachers, with ballroom teachers and other dance teachers. It is hard to do on ice as we have to be steady on our feet, but it is a fun challenge and I am happy we succeeded I guess. (on her mistake on the twizzle) There's not much to explain. It was just a little check on the twizzle. I wasn't sure if it was visible after we skated. It's not something I do often. I practice my twizzles a lot during the week so I am a little bit frustrated about that, but silly mistakes like that are easy to work on so I am going to work on it.

Cizeron: We feel really good about our performance today. We had a lot of fun. The public was so supportive. It felt really warm. It's a program we enjoy more and more as we practice it and we always have more fun. Today we had a really good feeling on the ice. (on preparations for the Olympic Games) We have been working really hard since the beginning of the season and we're just happy to see that our work is paying off and we can really trust our training and the path that we're on. We try to keep our focus and keep working hard. We try to work on every detail, on everything that can be worked on and improved, and we will continue to do that until Worlds in Milan. It's fun work. We really enjoy both our programs this year. It is really fun to learn and to keep working on those programs. We feel pretty confident with our programs and we have a lot of pleasure on the ice. (on how the European Championships help prepare for Olympics) There is still the free dance tomorrow, but I think this was kind of a midpoint in our preparation for the Olympic Games. It feels a bit like the beginning of a second season and we are very happy with the base we have here. We just need to keep working hard and working on the details.

### **Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin (RUS) 2nd after the Short Dance**

Stepanova: (on today's performance) We want to say thank you to everyone, it was great to perform here. The public was incredible. It is crazy how much they supported us. We are unbelievably happy. Our coach said it was our best program and we are very pleased. (on placing second in the short dance) Any result should not be a surprise. We have worked a lot and tried to improve since Russian Nationals and we think we that shows. (on how the European Championships help prepare for Olympics) All competitions are different, you don't always manage everything and sometimes there are mistakes, but right now we are happy with our performance and the marks.

### **Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte (ITA) 3<sup>rd</sup> after the Short Dance**

Cappellini: We are happy with our performance today. We have been working a lot on our technical score which this time we haven't seen improve as much as we wanted, but we will keep working towards the Olympics and Worlds. The feeling from the crowd is always great in Russia. It is so passionate. It's a great country to skate in. (on their choice of Cha-Cha music for the short dance) We had this particular music in store for a while because we listened to it and loved it so we thought we would keep it in mind for when Latin comes around. So for a while we just warmed up in the morning listening to this music. It was our jam. When it was time for selection, we wanted something fresh. We have done Rhumba/Samba the previous two times so we wanted to try something very cheeky, something more modern. We hired the Italian Dancing with the Stars champion to work with us. It was a lot of fun, and the program is fun. It's so lively. It feels like we have come full circle because we started with Latin and now it is Latin at the Olympics. (on including an Italian theme in this season's programs) I think that in a year such as this one with the Olympics and then Worlds in Milan it was almost a given that we were going to bring something from Italian culture to the ice. For us, of course, we have the short dance which is Latin, but for the free program we have been saving a few Italian ideas that we were going to bring out this year. Even our free dance from 2016 could have ended up being the free dance for the Olympics, but in the end this is how it worked out. It was absolutely sure that we would skate to something Italian this year. (on preparations for the Olympic Games) We were definitely just going to work as hard as humanly possible before the Olympics. That was the plan and that still is the plan. We are still a little hungry. We want more and expect more from ourselves. We want to get higher scores and better results.