

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2013 **Day Four**

The ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2013 continued in Milan, Italy, Saturday with the Junior Men's and Junior Ladies Free Skating.

Joshua Farris leads USA to historic sweep in Junior Men's

Joshua Farris led the U.S. junior men to a historic podium sweep. Silver medalist Jason Brown and bronze medalist Shotari Omori joined Farris on the podium. It is the first clean sweep of the Men's podium in history of the ISU World Junior Championships.

Skating to Piano Concerto No. 2 by Sergei Rachmaninov, Farris reeled off a triple Axel-triple toeloop, another triple Axel and five more triple jumps as well as three level-four spins. He only crashed on the quadruple toeloop. The 18-year-old posted a new seasons best with 152.46 points and racked up 228.32 points overall to take the title. "I'm very happy with how I skated. I went out there to have fun. I knew it was my last junior competition and I was like, I'm going to enjoy it and skate my heart out. And that's what I tried to do. The fall on the quad kind of ruined my clean skate that I was hoping for, but I had fun out there. I'm looking forward to next year and moving up to senior and competing against the guys I've looked up to ever since I was little", Farris told the post-event press conference.

Brown's routine to "Liebestraum" by Franz Liszt featured two triple Axels, a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, a triple flip-single loop-triple Salchow combo and two more triples as well as level-four spins and footwork. He earned a seasons best of 154.09 points and won the Free Skating portion. Overall the 18-year-old moved up to second at 224.15 points to add the silver medal to his bronze from 2012. "It's been such a journey from last year to this year and to add a new jump (triple Axel), to add a jump that I've been working on for so long and so hard, day in and day out. To be able to come here to Junior Worlds and do three of them and to land them - for me that was like winning. To be able to do it here is truly incredible and I feel so honored and proud to have gotten to the podium with these two guys", Brown said.

Omori landed a triple Axel-double toeloop and five other clean triple jumps in his program to "Variations on a Theme of Paganini" by Sergei Rachmaninov, but stepped out of his second triple Axel. The Californian picked up a seasons best of 133.52 points which added up to 204.34 points overall. He slipped from second to third to take the bronze in his debut at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships. "I definitely feel very happy. I was really nervous before my long program today. But my coach (Tammy Gambill) kept telling me to stay calm and focused. To be able to get a medal at my first time here at Junior Worlds and to be part of this historic moment with Josh and Jason is such an honor", the 17-year-old shared.

Boyang Jin (CHN) moved up from sixth to fourth at 192.58 points. Michael Christian Martinez (PHI) finished fifth (191.64 points), the best result so far for a skater from the Philippines at an ISU Figure Skating Championship. Mikhail Kolyada (RUS) rounded up the top six at 189.94 points.

Elena Radionova spearheads Russian sweep in Junior Ladies

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Elena Radionova spearheaded a Russian sweep in the Junior Ladies. Julia Lipnitskaia took the silver medal and Anna Pogorilaya earned the bronze. Russia had swept the podium at Junior Worlds twice before, in 1996 and 1998.

Performing to “And I Finally Love You” and “Country of the Deaf” Radionova nailed six triples including two triple Lutzes and a triple flip-single loop-triple Salchow combo. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Final completed level-four spins and footwork to score 116.23 points. Overall she accumulated 169.71 points and pulled up from fifth to first place. “Yesterday I skated for the first time in this arena and I wasn’t really used to it. Today I tried the ice in training and felt more confident at that ice rink, maybe that made the difference. I expected to move up, maybe not to the first place, but into the top three”, the 14-year-old said.

Lipnitskaia opened her routine to “The Nutcracker” with a double Axel-triple toe-double toe followed by a double Axel-triple toe and four more triples. She picked up quite a few points for her excellent spins as well and earned 111.81 points. At 165.67 points, the 2012 World Junior Champion moved up from fourth to take the silver. “In the short program thinking too much, going into the combination there were so many thoughts. I was so nervous before the short like I’ve never done that in my life before. I went out with a completely different mindset for the free skating. I went through the program until the last jump, thinking about nothing and then everything came out together. In the footwork, I just wanted to laugh and to cry at the same time”, Lipnitskaia explained.

Pogorilaya produced six triples in her program to “Faust”, but some landings were not clean. She collected a level four for two spins and a level three for the flying camel spin and the footwork to score 160.32 points. “Contrary to the other girls I wasn’t nervous at all, neither in the short nor in the long program. I went out with a cool head and my goal was to show what I prepared for and what I had come here for. It wasn’t about surpassing everyone in the world, but to show what I am capable of and I was very serious about it”, the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final bronze medalist commented.

Overnight leader Samantha Cesario (USA) dropped to fourth at 154.55 points as five jumps were called underrotated. Courtney Hicks (USA) slipped from third to fifth (152.92 points) while Gabrielle Daleman (CAN) moved up from eighth to sixth (149.39 points).

The ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2013 conclude Sunday with the Exhibition Gala. For more information and full results please see: www.isu.org and <http://www.jwcmilano2013.com/>.

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