

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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## **ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Day Two**

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating continued Friday with the Junior Free Dance, Junior Men's Free Dance.

### **Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter win Junior Ice Dance**

Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter (USA) won the Junior Ice Dance event. Alla Loboda/Pavel Drozd of Russia claimed the silver medal and Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons (USA) settled for the bronze.

McNamara/Carpenter danced to "Carmen" and earned a level four for their lifts, twizzles, the spin and a level three for the step sequences to score 92.36 points. The reigning World Junior silver medalists accumulated 158.26 points to win the title. They were bronze medalists in the Junior Final two years ago. "All teams that have skated to this ("Carmen") have shown really strong performances and for us as a young team it is really necessary for us to watch and learn from them, we don't want to show exactly the same thing, but I think our cuts are different to the others and we can show our own personality. We took inspiration from the other skaters so we could show what the music makes us feel and what resonates with us as a team, not to just copy and paste what others have done", Carpenter said.

Loboda/Drozd's program to "Lo ti amore" and "Paganini" included four level-four elements as well, but the midline step sequence was rated a level two. The defending ISU Junior Grand Prix Final silver medalists received 86.85 points for their Free Dance and moved up from third to second at 150.86 points overall. "We skated well, but we could have done better. One step sequence was only a level two. We put in emotions and we enjoyed performing today. Result and our performance are both important to us. If we finish in first place, but didn't skate well, we're not too happy. And if we skated really well but don't get the result we hoped for, we're not too happy either", Loboda shared.

Parsons/Parsons skated to a Tango and had three level-four elements, but he wobbled on the twizzles. The brother-and-sister-team ranked fifth in the Free Dance with 79.50 points and slipped to third at 144.41 points overall. "Today we didn't really put out the free dance we wanted to, a lot of it changed and we're both frustrated we didn't get to showcase our program but we know what to work on for the rest of the season and I think in the Final with the best teams in the world here there is maybe some increased scrutiny from the judging panel, they are looking even more closely at us so the scores are not necessarily the best", Rachel Parsons commented.

Betina Popova/Yuri Vlasenko (RUS) ranked fourth place at 143.96 points, followed by Marie-Jade Lauriault/Romain Le Gac (FRA) with 141.44 points and Anastasia Skotpcova/Kirill Aleshin (RUS) with 134.61 points.

### **Nathan Chen (USA) skates to Junior Men's gold**

Nathan Chen (USA) skated to the Junior Men's gold medal. Russia's Dmitri Aliev earned the silver and the bronze went to Sota Yamamoto of Japan.

Skating to Symphony No. 3 by Camille Saint-Saens, Chen landed a quad toe-double toe combination and five triples, but he fell on a triple Axel and quad toe and stumbled out of the quad

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Salchow. The 2014 World Junior bronze medalist picked up 146.45 and totaled 225.04 points to win the title. "I'm very excited that I was able to become Junior Men's Grand Prix champion. It's a big accomplishment for me. I was happy that I was able to put out a program I have been training for but I was not 100% happy with my performance. Now I'm going to be training for Nationals where I'll be competing as a senior", Chen told the press

Aliev's program to "Notre Dame de Paris" was highlighted by a quad-double toeloop combination, a triple Axel-single loop-double Salchow combination and a triple Lutz-triple toe, but towards the end he singled three jumps. The skater from St. Petersburg earned 134.44 points which added up to 211.22 points. "I'm super excited to have won a medal here, even with this kind of performance. It was the biggest competition I've ever been to and the first time for me to skate in front of such a big audience. This means more stress, but I like to skate in front of people", the 16-year-old said.

Yamamoto produced six triples, but missed his triple Axel and underrotated a quadruple toeloop in his routine to Piano Concerto No. 1 by Peter Tchaikovski. The 2015 World Junior bronze medalist was ranked fourth in the Free Skating with 132.46 points but overall held on to third place with 205.31 points. "Last year I was second here so I think many people expected me to be better this year but I changed my jumping content to put two quads in the long program just before Western Japan Sectionals so I wasn't able to nail it. There was only a small margin between third and fourth places and I changed my double Axel to a triple flip, so I was able to make it to third place", the Japanese Junior Champion pointed out.

Vincent Zhou (USA) finished fourth at 204.56 points. Daniel Samohin (ISR) came fifth (184.68 points) and Roman Sadovsky (CAN) ranked sixth (168.40 points).

Full results are available at [www.isu.org](http://www.isu.org). The second part of the competition continues with the Senior Short Dance, Pairs Free Skating and Ladies Short Program.

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