

Press release

08 December 2017

**ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18:
ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final
ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final
Day Two**

The first champions were crowned as the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final continued Friday in Nagoya (JPN). The events feature the top six skaters/couples in each category from the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series.

Kaetlyn Osmond (CAN) edges Alina Zagitova (RUS) for lead in Ladies Short Program

World silver medalist [Kaetlyn Osmond](#) of Canada edged Russia's World Junior Champion [Alina Zagitova](#) for the lead in a high-level Ladies Short Program at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya on Friday. 2015 World silver medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) of Japan came third in the first segment of the Ladies competition.

Osmond nailed a triple flip-triple toe combination, a triple Lutz, double Axel as well as level-four spins and footwork in her routine to 'Sous le ciel de Paris' and 'Milord'. The Canadian Champion posted a new personal best of 77.04 points. "I felt really controlled and I felt the program was really myself. I really wanted to get another clean program done, because not having a clean program in France really upset me," Osmond said. "I just really wanted to enjoy my performance so I told myself to be calm and do what I do in practice, to have fun and enjoy it. That is exactly what I did."

Zagitova's 'Black Swan' featured a triple Lutz-triple loop combination, double Axel and difficult spins and footwork that were graded a level four, but she stepped out of the landing of the triple flip. Nevertheless, the 15-year-old managed a personal best with 76.27 points. "I am pleased that I was able to deal with my nerves and to finally do my combination jump in the short program. I was more confident. I skated the short program a lot in practice and with my coaches we discussed many details. We also cut my skirt a bit shorter and it feels better. I think I relaxed (on the triple flip), because I was happy to have done the combination. But the flip itself was not bad," the World Junior Champion noted.

Performing to 'Memoirs of a Geisha', Miyahara completed a triple Lutz-triple toe combination, triple loop, double Axel and exquisite spins to achieve a season's best of 74.61 points. "Since I was the first skater, I was prepared to feel very nervous but I was very calm when I started to skate. This season, I didn't have the Grand Prix Final in my mind, but now that I am here I didn't want to waste this amazing chance that I got. I thought my jumps were better than at Skate America and my scores were better as well. I knew if I skated a clean program I will go over 70 points, and I had a clean skate so I was very satisfied," Miyahara told the press.

[Wakaba Higuchi](#) (JPN) put out a clean performance to finish fourth on 73.26 points. [Maria Sotskova](#) (RUS) earned a personal best score of 74.00 and is sitting in fifth place. 2012 World Champion [Carolina Kostner](#) (ITA) reduced her combination to triple toe-double toe to come sixth (72.82 points).

Nathan Chen (USA) clinches gold in close Men's Free Skating

[Nathan Chen](#) (USA) prevailed over home town hero [Shoma Uno](#) of Japan in close a finish at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya (JPN) on Friday to take the title. [Mikhail Kolyada](#) of Russia earned the bronze medal in what was his debut at the ISU Grand Prix Final.

Chen opened his performance to "Mao's Last Dancer" with a solid quad Lutz-triple toe combination and also produced a quad toe-single loop-double Salchow combination as well as three level-four spins. However, he stumbled on the quad flip, crashed on a downgraded quad toe and underrotated the second quad Lutz. The U.S. Champion picked up 183.19 points and was ranked second in the Free Skating, but held on to first place on 286.51 points overall, edging Uno by just 0.50 points. "Not really the performance I was expecting to do here but I will take it as a good experience and just try to improve from here. There were some technical things that I know I can fix and these things I just adjust as the season goes on. Especially the quad toe I know I was tired toward the end so I wasn't able to get the lift that I needed, but the only thing I can do is keep working on it," Chen commented. "Now I just need the rest that I need heading into Nationals and focus on doing the best that I can there so that I can secure my spot for the Olympic Games," the 18-year-old added.

Performing to "Turandot", Uno went down on his opening quad loop but recovered to land a quad Salchow, a quad flip and two excellent triple Axels, but the first quad toeloop was on two feet and the second quad toe was landed forward and downgraded. The World silver medalist scored 184.50 points and won the Free Skating portion, but it was not enough to overtake Chen and he remained in second place on 286.51 points. "For the free program today, I was not that nervous. The quad toeloop today was the jump my body was not ready for. I was fairly disappointed by that. I was proud of getting both quad Salchow and quad flip done. I just need to work on the toeloop from now on," Uno shared.

Kolyada had to overcome a rough start into his Elvis Presley routine when he missed the quad Lutz and the quad Salchow, but recovered to produce a quad toe-triple toe, a triple Axel-double toe and three more clean triple jumps and three level-four spins. The Russian Champion earned 182.78 points and totaled 282.00 points. "It's great, a great feeling. Being on the podium is a special feeling, I can't put it into words, this word doesn't exist yet in the Russian language. Now I am going with a positive feeling into Russian Nationals," Kolyada said. "Basically I am pleased with my performance, because I rotated all three quads. The only thing I can myself scold for is the loop. I did a single instead of a triple. I just rushed it. Out of tiredness maybe, I wanted to finish the program faster," he joked.

[Sergei Voronov](#) (RUS) delivered a strong performance that included a quad toe-triple toe and five clean triples to move up one spot to fourth place (266.59 points). [Adam Rippon](#) (USA) pulled up from fifth to sixth (254.33 points) while [Jason Brown](#) (USA) slipped from fourth to sixth (253.81 points).

Skoptcova/Aleshin (RUS) upset Carreira/Ponomarenko (USA) in Junior Short Dance

Russia's [Anastasia Skoptcova/Kirill Aleshin](#) upset 2017 World Junior bronze medalists [Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko](#) (USA) in the Junior Short Dance to take the lead in the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya on Friday. [Sofia Polishchuk/Alexander Vakhnov](#), also from Russia, are currently in third place.

Dancing to Cha Cha, Rhumba and Samba, Skoptcova/Aleshin put out a technically demanding performance and earned a level four for the Cha Cha Pattern Dance, the twizzles and the curve lift, only the side by side footwork was rated a level three. The couple from Moscow set a new personal best with 65.87 points. "We were calm. It felt like at home in practice. Just to skate clean is not enough, you need to improve every time. We came here to show what we have learned. We come to each competition to win, first of all to win over ourselves," Skoptcova commented. "You should not try more than you can do, because that usually leads to mistakes," added Aleshin.

Carreira/Ponomarenko's dance to Rhumba, Cha Cha and Samba featured a level-four lift and a level-four Cha Cha Pattern sequence. However the twizzles garnered a level two. Nevertheless, the 2017 World Junior bronze medalists managed a personal best with 64.10 points.

"We are really happy with how our performance went. We didn't get some of the levels, so we need to work on that. Besides that, it was great and we are excited for tomorrow. Our main focus is to just skate our best, perform our best, having two clean programs and having that take us where we want to be," Ponomarenko noted. He is the son of Olympic and World Champions Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko. "It helps a lot to have world medalist parents, they have told me many stories, they are really proud of me and support me really well. I thank them for that," he said.

Polishchuk/Vakhnov, who compete in their first Junior Final, turned in a strong dance to Cha Cha and Samba as well, collecting a level four for three elements. They, too, improved their personal best with 63.17 points. "Well, we did everything we planned. Of course, there are always things we must work on, but for this moment we showed everything we could. All the mistakes we did before and which we worked on we managed to correct here. To be honest, I was nervous and Sonia helped me to calm down," Vakhnov shared.

[Majorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha](#) (CAN) finished fourth (60.52 points), edging [Sofia Shevchenko/Igor Eremenko](#) (RUS), who have 60.10 points. [Arina Ushakova/Maxim Nekrasov](#) (RUS) placed sixth on 58.53 points.

Alexandrovskaya/Windsor (AUS) grab Junior Pairs gold

World Junior Champions [Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor](#) of Australia added another title to their resume when they grabbed the Junior Pairs gold medal at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final in Nagoya (JPN). Russia's [Appollinariia Panfilova/Dmitry Rylov](#) and [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) took the silver and bronze medals.

Alexandrovskaya/Windsor's program to "The Mask" was highlighted by a triple twist, triple toe-double toe-double toe combination, a throw triple flip, throw triple Salchow and level-four lifts. The only major glitch came when he fell on the side by side triple Salchow. The Australians picked up 113.59 points for this performance for a total of 173.85 points to overtake the overnight leaders. "It was a little tough, at least for me. There was one big mistake but we are happy that we pushed through it and everything else was relatively ok. We are not happy but we are not upset about our skate. We will slowly increase our training, get more consistent in practice and hopefully our confidence will build and we'll be able to perform a lot better in competition," Windsor commented. "Our goals for the Olympics, we're not there not win a medal, we want to skate two of the best program that we can and our ultimate goal is to finish in the top twelve," he added.

Skating to 'Alice in Wonderland', Panfilova/Rylov completed a triple twist, double Axel, throw triple loop and throw triple flip. With 112.20 points, the team from Perm improved their personal best significantly. They were ranked third in the Free Skating but finished second overall on 173.01 points. "I am satisfied with our performance. I think we lost points on the jumps, we only do double Axel and a double-double combination. We want to add a triple jump for the next competition, which is senior Nationals," Panfilova pointed out. "I am in shock. I did not expect that (a medal) All the others have triples in their program and we don't," her partner commented.

Pavliuchenko/Khodykin landed a triple toe-triple toe sequence, a triple twist, triple Salchow and throw triple loop in their routine to 'Chicago'. The Muscovites were ranked second in the Free Skating with a personal best of 113.43 points and overall remained in third place on 172.94 points. "It was exciting. I had a little mistake and was not good, but still okay. Of course we need to think over what we did but for now I think we did well. But we have to work more to get better," Pavliuchenko told the press.

World Junior bronze medalists [Yumeng Gao/Zhong Xie](#) (CHN) remained in fourth place on 165.03 points while World Junior silver medalists [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii](#) (RUS) pulled up one spot to come fifth on 160.80 points, just ahead of [Anastasia Poluianova/Dmitry Sopot](#) (RUS) on 160.47 points.

'Gladiator' Alexei Krasnozhon (USA) fights his way to Junior Men's gold

[Alexei Krasnozhon](#) (USA) felt like a gladiator on the ice and fought his way to gold at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final in Nagoya on Friday. His teammate [Camden Pulkinen](#) rose from fifth place to claim the silver medal and Japan's [Mitsuki Sumoto](#) earned the bronze.

Krasnozhon opened his routine to 'Nelle tue mani' from the 'Gladiator' soundtrack with an underrotated quad loop and went on to land eight clean triples including two Axels and a triple Lutz-

triple loop as well as three level-four spins. The 17-year-old set a new personal best with 155.02 points and racked up 236.35 points to win the title. “It was pretty good, there is still a lot to improve going into Nationals but I am happy today. I was here to get the gold medal and I was able to take it, all I needed to do is to just get it done. I am proud of myself to not get distracted, I was very focused on doing my job. I was able to take one breath out, and just skate for myself, probably the first time in my career that I was able to let everything go and focus on one thing at a time,” Krasnozhon said.

Pulkinen’s performance to Chopin Etudes included two triple Axels and five more triples, he only doubled a flip and the loop was shaky. The American picked up 146.20 points, a personal best as well, for a total of 217.10 points. “Honestly, I don't really remember much that I did in the program because I was so in the zone while I was performing and i really wasn't thinking. I really let my body take over and trust my training. I feel amazing! My goal here was not really about placement, so I just wanted to deliver two good programs and improve on my seasons best, which I did, and I'm really happy about that so I have a lot to take from this competition,” Pulkinen shared.

Skating to “Les Miserables”, Sumoto fell on his opening triple Axel, but recovered to produce six clean triples. The 16-year-old earned 137.35 points which added up to 214.45 points overall.

“I fell on the triple Axel and stepped out of the last triple Lutz, which was disappointing. But overall I feel good about my performance and the result. Actually I was not calculating the points in my head, but when I saw ‘third’ on the screen for my free program, I thought ‘I could make the podium this time’. I was so excited when I found out that I am going to be on the podium,” Sumoto commented.

[Makar Ignatov](#) (RUS) came fourth on 211.99 points. [Alexey Erokhov](#) (RUS) dropped from second to fifth after missing several jumps (2017.04 points). [Andrew Torgashev](#) (USA) placed sixth (160.49 points).

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final continues Saturday with the Junior Free Dance, Junior Ladies and Pairs Free Skating, Free Dance and Ladies Free Skating.

All relevant information such as entry lists and results, biographies, planned program content, quick quotes of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final are available on the ISU website [here](#). The ISU Junior Grand Prix Final is streamed live on the [ISU Junior Grand Prix channel](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#GPFigure** and **#JGPFigure2017 #FigureSkating**.

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