

November 2, 2019

Grenoble, France

## **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20** **Internationaux de France, Day 2**

World Ice Dance Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/ Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA), World Champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA), rising star [Alena Kostornaia](#) (RUS) and young pair [Anastasia Mishina/Alexander Galliamov](#) (RUS) struck gold at the Internationaux de France, the third event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series, in Grenoble on Saturday. Chen qualified for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Turin while the other gold medalists made an important step towards the Final in what was their first Grand Prix event of the season.

### **Chen (USA) gets gold and ticket to Turin in Grenoble**

Two-time World Champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA) struck gold and qualified for his fourth consecutive ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final with 30 points to spare. The silver medal went to Russia's [Alexander Samarin](#). To the delight of the home crowd, [Kevin Aymoz](#) of France claimed the bronze, his first Grand Prix medal.

Performing to music from 'Rocketman', the Elton John biopic, Chen completed a quadruple Lutz, quadruple toeloop-single Euler-triple Flip, quadruple toeloop, quadruple Salchow as well as two triple Axels, but some jumps were wobbly. The ISU Grand Prix Final Champion scored 194.68 points and totaled 297.16 points to take his second gold medal on the Grand Prix circuit.

"I am happy to have qualified for the Final. Placement-wise of course I'm happy with the results, both Skate America and France. Of course, both Skate America and France I made mistakes. I made a lot of silly errors, errors that I need to fix," the 20-year-old university student said.

Samarin opened his performance to 'Good News' by Apashe with a big quadruple Lutz-triple toeloop combination and also landed a quadruple toeloop, but he fell on the quad flip and a triple Lutz. The 2019 European silver medalist was ranked third in the Free Skating with 166.62 points, but remained in second place at 265.10 points.

"Overall I am happy with the result. I won't go into details now on what worked and what didn't work, but I want to thank everyone for their support. My next event is the Grand Prix in Russia, at home. Now I'll forget about this competition and start to prepare for the next one," Samarin said.

Aymoz produced five clean triple jumps including two Axels and difficult spins and footwork in his routine to 'Lighthouse' by Patrick Watson, but he stepped out of his quadruple toeloop as well as out of the quadruple-triple toeloop combination and stumbled on a triple Lutz. The French Champion achieved a personal best of 172.14 and was second in the Free Skating, but overall finished third on 254.64 points.

“I am really happy about my first Grand Prix medal at home. It is good to have done it here. It was a good competition for me and a fight with me during my programs. I put all the energy I have into this competition. Figure skating for me is to share the emotion and to fight,” he said.

[Morisi Kvitelashvili](#) (GEO) moved up from fifth to fourth place on 236.38 points. World Junior Champion [Tomoki Hiwatashi](#) (USA) came back from a faulty Short Program with a strong Free Skating to pull up from 10th to fifth place (227.43 points). [Sergei Voronov](#) (RUS) came sixth (220.98 points) and Olympic silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#) (JPN) dropped from fourth to eighth after several errors (215.84 points).

### **Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA) dance off with seventh Grand Prix gold**

France’s four-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) claimed their seventh Grand Prix series gold medal. [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) took the silver medal and the bronze went to Italy’s [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#).

It was smooth sailing for Papadakis/Cizeron in their avant-garde Free Dance to the poem ‘Find Me’ by Forest Black and to music by Olafur Arnalds. The five-time European Champions produced effortless-looking footwork, lifts and twizzles, collecting a level four for five elements. The French Champions scored 133.55 points for their Free Dance and racked up 222.24 points overall.

“We are very lucky to be competing in France for our first international competition, because we are at home. It was a really great competition. We’re looking forward to Japan (the NHK Trophy in Sapporo later this month) and to work on all the things that didn’t quite go the way we wanted, and to make it even better there,” Papadakis said.

Cizeron added: “This program is a little bit about death, but not in a really tragic way. It’s about two connected souls that want to find each other after life, after whatever they are going through. I think in this way it connects to everyone.”

Chock/Bates entertained the crowd with their ‘Egyptian Snake Dance’, completing interesting lifts and intricate steps. The 2019 Four Continents Champions picked up a level four for the lifts, twizzles and their spin to earn 124.15 points for their Free Dance. Overall the Americans accumulated 204.84 points.

“We skated really well both short and free, and we are very pleased with the way the programs kind of open up and carry more speed throughout. I think doing two Challengers really was beneficial for us,” Bates said.

“Now we go to China on Monday for the Cup of China, so not much time to make any changes. The programs are in a good place and we’ll just build off the good skates this weekend and hopefully continue to improve.”

Guignard/Fabbri’s ‘space dance’ to ‘Space Oddity’ and ‘Life on Mars’ featured difficult lifts and intricate footwork. The 2019 European bronze medalists got a level four for all seven level elements and posted a personal best of 123.69 points, which added up to 203.34 points.

“For the first time in my life I have to say that I’m super proud of what we did. We didn’t think we would have been here until one week ago. We couldn’t expect more from this competition,” said

Fabbri, who injured tendons in his right hand in a practice accident in September. He expects to start to use his right hand again slowly within the next 10 days.

“There are obviously some things that need to be improved and some things that will be changed when I’ll be able to use my right hand again,” he said.

[Olivia Smart/Adrian Diaz](#) (ESP) came fourth with a ‘clown dance’ (188.18 points) followed by ISU Grand Prix Finalists [Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro](#) (RUS) on 184.44 points.

### Teen sensation Kostornaia (RUS) grabs gold in Grand Prix debut

Russia’s [Alena Kostornaia](#) sealed a memorable victory in her Grand Prix debut. Olympic Champion and teammate [Alina Zagitova](#) took the silver medal and [Mariah Bell](#) (USA) claimed the bronze medal.

Skating to ‘Twilight’, ‘New Moon’ and ‘Supermassive Black Hole’, Kostornaia reeled off a triple Axel-double toeloop, triple Axel, six triples as well as level four spins and footwork. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion achieved a personal best of 159.45 points and totaled 236.00 points.

“I am pleased that I was able to skate well and to show a clean program. I hope to improve my jumps and my program with each competition and to perfect myself. I had a show number to this music and I liked it so much and we decided to use it for this season,” the 16-year-old said.

Zagitova landed a triple Salchow, triple flip-double toe-double loop and another triple flip in her ‘Cleopatra’ program to ‘The Feeling Begins’, ‘Lawrence of Arabia’ and ‘Ramses’. However, the 2019 World Champion stumbled on her opening triple Lutz and underrotated four jumps.

With 141.82 points, the 17-year-old ranked third in the Free Skating but held on to second at 216.06 points overall.

“I think my performance was OK, but obviously there is room to grow and that motivates me. I will try to improve in all aspects of my program, the spins, footwork and jumps and get more points on the GOE (Grade of Execution),” the Olympic Champion said.

Bell’s program to ‘Hallelujah’ was highlighted by six clean triples and difficult spins and steps that merited a level four. With a personal best of 142.64 points, the Nebelhorn Trophy Champion was ranked second in the Free Skating segment but remained in third place on 212.89 points.

“I’m really proud of how this competition went. I think the season started very well for me. I really worked on my training and it’s paying off which I’m really excited about,” the 23-year-old said.

“I’ve got Russia (Rostelecom Cup) coming up next, so I’m looking forward to just going in and bringing my programs out again.”

[Kaori Sakamoto](#) (JPN) moved up from sixth to fourth place with a dynamic performance to ‘Matrix’ (199.24 points). [Starr Andrews](#) (USA) finished fifth (180.54 points) followed by 2018 World silver medalist [Wakaba Higuchi](#) (JPN/174.12 points).

## **Mishina/Galliamov (RUS) golden in their first Grand Prix in Grenoble**

[Anastasia Mishina/AlexandrGalliamov](#) of Russia took gold in their first senior ISU Grand Prix event as the 2019 World Junior Champions continued their winning ways at the Internationaux de France in Grenoble.

Teammates [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) earned the silver medal while [Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier](#) (USA) earned the bronze as both teams had at Skate America two weeks ago.

Mishina/Galliamov put out a dramatic performance to 'The Master and Margarita' that featured a triple twist, throw triple flip and loop as well as a side by side triple toe and two level-four lifts. However, Mishina doubled the side by side Salchow.

The team from St Petersburg scored 133.81 points and totaled 207.58 to overtake Pavliuchenko/Khodykin.

"Today our program was not very clean. I made a big mistake on the jump (Salchow). But maybe it is good that it happened now. We will work on this and in our next competition we won't make this mistake," Mishina said.

"We didn't think about medals, but we were nervous of course as this is our first Grand Prix and maybe that's why we made some mistakes. Our next Grand Prix maybe will be a bit easier mentally."

Overnight leaders Pavliuchenko/Khodykin completed a triple twist, throw triple flip, a triple toeloop-double toe-double toe as well as innovative lifts in their program to 'Tron Legacy' by Daft Punk.

The only errors came when Pavliuchenko fell on the triple flip and the throw triple loop. With 129.97 points, the 2018 World Junior Champions ranked third in the Free Skating and slipped from first to second place at 206.56 points. With two silver medals, the couple look set to have earned a trip to the Grand Prix Final in Turin.

"Our performance tonight was not the best one, unfortunately. I made two major mistakes. But we are still pleased with the result and will continue to work," Pavliuchenko said.

Khodykin added: "When we went to our Grand Prix events it was our plan to qualify for the Final and it looks like we did it. We want to be in top shape for the Final."

Performing to 'The Lion King Returns', Denney/Frazier produced a triple twist, a side by side triple Salchow, throw triple loop and Salchow as well as exciting lifts. The only glitch was Denney's stumble on an underrotated double Axel.

The Skate America bronze medalists scored a personal best of 130.75 points and were second in the Free Skating. They accumulated 199.40 points to take their second medal on the circuit.

"Haven and I are happy with the fight we brought today. We left some points on the table with the jump and a couple of other things. But all in all we're happy to come here with the quick turnaround

from Skate America and to be able to keep progressing the way we are this season. We keep growing from here,” Frazier said.

[Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc](#) (USA) finished fourth on 195.78 points while [Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer](#) (AUT) moved up from eighth to fifth at 181.26 points.

The Internationaux de France concludes Sunday with the Exhibition Gala. Overall, 59 skaters/couples representing 13 ISU members competed at Internationaux de France November 1-3. The top 6 qualifiers of the Grand Prix series in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Torino (ITA), December 5 to 8, 2019. Full [entry lists, results, the General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series are available on [isu.org](#). The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series continues next week with the Cup of China in Chongqing.

### **Where to watch and follow the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019?**

Viewers will be able to watch the Series either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) as of season 2019/20. You will find the full list in the [Where to watch news here](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the “Where to Watch” news and you can also subscribe to the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

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### **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20**

[Skate America - Las Vegas \(USA\) – October 18 – 20](#)

[Skate Canada International – Kelowna \(CAN\) – October 25 – 27](#)

[Internationaux de France – Grenoble \(FRA\) – Novembre 1 – 3](#)

[SHISEIDO cup of China – Chongqing \(CHN\) – November 8 – 10](#)

[Rostelecom Cup – Moscow \(RUS\) – November 15 – 17](#)

[NHK Trophy – Sapporo \(JPN\) – November 22 – 24](#)

[ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final \(Senior & Junior\) – Torino \(ITA\) – December 5 – 8](#)

[The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series](#) started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six international senior invitational events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The skaters are seeded and invited to the six Grand Prix of Figure Skating events based on the results of the previous ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Competitors collect points in their ISU Grand Prix events towards the qualification for the ISU

Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.