



PRESS CONFERENCE

Pairs, after Short Program

Ashley Cain/Timothy Leduc (USA) 1st after Short Program

Cain: Today we're very proud of what we did out there. Our main focus was to do this program justice, because we've had a really tough time over the season with that short program. After the national championships we got home to work and stayed in shape and felt that gave us a lot of confidence out there in that program. (on the meaning of Four Continents for them) For Timothy and I this is our last competition of the season. So this is why when we get back from US Championships we put all that we had into getting ready for this competition, because we wanted to end this season on a very good note. We've had a really tough season, we've had success and a lot of challenges.

Leduc: We're very humble and very grateful to have a great program, something we're very proud of. In the season we've had ups and downs. The competition is very well organized, everyone is very friendly and so we're very excited to compete in Taipei. (on what it takes to get US pair skating on a higher level) Certainly we're really pleased with the placements of team USA today. We think that the US pairs program is very deep. We have a number of really great and exciting teams that are on the cusp of breaking into the next level. Keep watching, the next four years are going to be exciting for US pairs. (on heading into the Free Skating) At this competition we want to set ourselves up for the next four years. We're very pleased with our effort today and we want to be equally pleased after the free skate. Our long program is a lot of fun and we'd like to bring that to the audience. Our strategy is to enjoy the moment, to do our elements, but having a good time.

Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor (AUS) 2nd after Short Program

Windsor: Obviously we're super happy with how we skated. It's always a little bit difficult when we had a long break in between competitions. It's good to come back to this ice rink, it feels comfortable for us. We feel at ease skating here. (on the meaning of Four Continents for them) As for us, we're going to have two more competitions. I think we're just going to keep doing the same thing in training, it's worked really well for us the past two seasons. (on making history for Australia as the first indigenous Winter Olympian and medalist in a program at an ISU senior level championship) I don't really know how I feel about it yet. I think I will really appreciate it all after the end of the season when I have time to relax and soak everything in. It's just skating right now and focusing on that rather than trying to think about all the other achievements that we've done. (on heading into the Free Skating) I think obviously the goal is to skate as clean as possible and trying to take each element as it comes rather than trying to think about the full program.

Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea (USA) 3rd after Short Program

Kayne: We're very pleased with our performance today. We've been to Taipei before and we really enjoyed skating here. When we found out that we were coming back here we were very excited. We really enjoyed our trip so far. (on what it takes to get US pair skating on a higher level) I think the most important thing for US pairs is to learn from countries I like China and Russia. Those teams stay together and they build off each other. Danny and I, as we continue our growth together, we got to know each other and how we respond to each other at competitions. If you are changing partners, you have to constantly to get to know a new person. So I think the most important thing that US pairs can do is staying together and show consistency with the teams that we have. I think we are on the right track for that. (on the meaning of Four Continents for them) Danny and I will continue to train for the World Championships after this competition. So we're very excited to go to Milan and to represent the USA there. So this is a stepping stone to the rest of our season. (on heading into the Free Skating) We really love our free program this year to Swan Lake. We worked very hard on creating a certain emotion that goes along with the music. We're going to focus on the overall picture of the ballet and bringing that to the ice and creating the emotion around the music and our connection which is very strong in the piece.

O'Shea: This season has been a long journey. We're excited to have another step into the right direction with our performance today and we look forward to keeping it going. (on what it takes to get US pair skating on a higher level) I think that we're all on the right track and it's going to be an exciting four years.

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