



April 11 - April 14, 2019 Fukuoka, Japan

PRESS CONFERENCE

Team Captains, after Day One

Madison Hubbell (USA), 1st place after Day One

This is my first time at a team event and what a great way to start. Team USA had all very strong performances. We have a team of Olympic (team) members, National Champions, World medalists, all World (team) members. We knew we were strong going and we wanted to fight together as a team and it just shows how strong we are. (on how the different atmosphere of the team event helped some skaters to produce season best performances) It's been a long season, everyone is tired, many of us got sick after Worlds, just being exhausted. We weren't all trained our best. But the atmosphere of having such a fun event that really seems like it's just for the appreciation of being here. I know that we're incredibly proud of our team and proud to represent our country. There's a little bit of fight in there. YOU get tired and you may not have as much energy, but you find the energy with your teammates cheering you on. You know you have to do your best for them. It's a really cool atmosphere. (on how she was chosen to be captain) In our federation, they sent out a vote. So every member of the team was able to vote for whom they wanted to be captain. I'm very honored that my teammates chose me.

Misato Komatsubara (JPN), 2nd place after Day One

Coming into the team event for the first time, I knew everybody in our team is very talented and there was one great performance after the other. Personally, even though we (she and partner Tim Koleto) gave our best, we still were in last place, but I think it is a stepping stone for tomorrow. (on how the different atmosphere of the team event helped some skaters to produce season best performances) This is definitely nervousness for me, coming here with super strong skaters. My best performance is maybe not yet nice, but when I see Shoma (Uno) cheering for us, I am like yes, we can do it. It was definitely a positive emotion. It is really entertainment and I hope that everybody enjoyed it, the public and the judges enjoyed it. I really like this competition. (on how she was chosen to be the captain) Seven out of the eight members of our team are at this event for the first time, so I expected Shoma (Uno) to be the captain, but he somehow got out of it. So I think it was decided by the order of age.

Nikita Katsalapov (RUS), 3rd place after Day One

It was a good day for Russia. We did a few great run throughs. I am very happy for Lisa Tuktamysheva to come back on to the ice and put out that kind of strong performance and also Andrei Lazukin did a great job. What about Alexander (Samarin) – maybe his coach could tell him to do a little more simple content and play it safe. But still we have the free dance tomorrow and a great pair team. We're ready to fight and play this game to the end. (on how the different atmosphere of the team event helped some skaters to produce season best performances) Each team member tried to stay in shape for this competition. I think I was at this competition eight years ago, with my previous partner and I have forgotten everything. Now as the captain, I have to cheer up my team and motivate them for good performances and together with Vika (Sinitsina) we managed to do that. I didn't think I would be that nervous, because the major competitions are all done, but here it is a different responsibility, you aren't fighting only for yourself, but for your team. Everyone is contributing something to this game. Therefore, I couldn't relax and have a 100 percent fun, but I enjoyed it nevertheless. (on how he was chosen to be the captain) I was appointed by our federation, so I don't think there was a vote by the team. But I think it is a very honorable position and I'm trying my best to motivate and to help them morally, but I cannot skate for them. I'm doing everything for them that depends on me.