



April 11 - April 14, 2019 Fukuoka, Japan

## PRESS CONFERENCE

### Team Captains, after Day Three

#### **Madison Hubbell (USA), 2019 World Team Trophy Champions team**

This was an extremely successful event for Team USA. Everyone had beautiful performances including today, the highlight of course being Bradie Tennell's seasons best, an absolutely great way to finish the event for us. (on many skaters achieving a personal best and their role as captain) I'm very proud to be captain of Team USA, but I don't take credit for the performances of my compatriots. We were lucky enough to send all of our best skaters and highest ranked skaters to this competition. We feel like it is a priceless opportunity to practice for the team event in Beijing (2022 Olympic Winter Games). I didn't have any doubts that everyone was going to give their absolute best performance. (on how the WTT format compares to the Olympic format and how this format could be developed further) This is my first experience, so I have not lived another format. I unfortunately was not able to participate in the team event at the last Olympics. The feeling I have is that while it should be mandatory to have a different skater for each segment. At the Olympics they should allow two entries for all of the events, because I think there are many teams with an abundant amount of talented skaters. I know that my federation would have loved to put two more skaters on that team and give them the chance to come home with a medal. That is something I would like them to consider for Beijing. (on who she felt contributed the most to the team) This is an impossible question. I cannot pick one person. You look at our team box, it is full with decorations. Ashley and Tim brought the big hats that everybody loved and our teamleader brought Uncle Sam. As team captain, I was there for almost every single event. Zach (Zachary Donohue) was backstage giving pep talks to the ladies today, because they were a little tired. So we all put in equal effort and everybody gave some of their absolute best performances of the season. Our strength came from the fact that we all came together as a team. I honestly believe if you have replaced us or taken out any of us, it wouldn't have worked as well.

#### **Misato Komatsubara (JPN), 2019 World Team Trophy silver medalists team**

There is no way to describe fully what we felt as it is the end of the season. We wanted to make sure we are able to finish with a big smile and I think we were able to do that. So I'm very proud of all our skaters and I hope to come back to this competition. (on many skaters achieving a personal best and) Personally, we were able to achieve our personal best in the free dance. We wanted to give our everything for the sake of the team. Everyone on the team is very talented and made huge efforts in their performance. We of course were very confident that they would do their best but we also did tell them that they could lean on us for support. (on how the WTT format compares to the Olympic format and how this format could be developed further) For me this was the first time to experience the team event. I haven't been to the Olympics. Having come to World Team Trophy, I really felt that the cheering and the energy that I was getting from my team gave me a lot of motivation. So I would love to see this happen every year. (on who she felt contributed the most to the team) I really can't choose one person. I think it is actually a beautiful thing that we can't choose who contributed the most. Our teamleader brought the national flag, it wasn't just the skaters, Kaori's mother, my father, we all did something to help and I think that made us all very happy. It wasn't just the Japanese team either, I think all of the teams were very beautiful.

#### **Nikita Katsalapov (RUS), 2019 World Team Trophy bronze medalists team**

It was a great competition day for us. Our girls proved that they are real fighters and turned in two excellent free skating performances. Our pair Natalia and Alexander gave a great performance, too. Unfortunately, they were second to the French team, but Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres, were simply the best today. We are glad that we remained in third place. However, it is a little regrettable that we were not able to move up, the gap was only

April 11 - April 14, 2019 Fukuoka, Japan

two points. (on many skaters achieving a personal best and their role as captain) In our team everyone was well prepared and we didn't really discuss anything specifically if they need just to keep things or on the contrary add something. Everyone stuck to their original plan and everything turned out great. (on how the WTT format compares to the Olympic format and how this format could be developed further) Both formats are very interesting. I agree with Madison and I think on our National team we have some more strong skaters that could show very strong results, in pairs and ice dance for example. It would be similar to the Olympic format, I guess. These competitions are different from each other. But in both, the atmosphere is indescribable. You are not responsible only for yourself when you go out on to the ice, but you are fighting together with your team. (on who contributed the most to the team) We cannot single out one person. We worked as one, we consulted each other, we all get along very well in the team, because we're friends and we're a team.