



April 11 - April 14, 2019 Fukuoka, Japan

## PRESS CONFERENCE

### Team Captains, after Day Two

#### **Madison Hubbell (USA), 1st place after Day Two**

Team USA put out a lot of wonderful performances, some seasons bests and we're all very happy and proud. (on what she expects for the final day) Not to say that Ice Dance is incredibly predictable, but statistically the mistakes are less so it's easier to kind of guess your position. Freestyle and pairs are incredibly challenging to predict. While we are confident in the Ladies and Pair on our team that they're going out trying to do their best, we know that anything can happen. We'll be there supporting them and hopefully we'll stay in the first position. But there are difficult opponents to either side of me. (on team members achieving a seasons best) I've never been to a team event before and I don't know if it's this team or if this is how it feels every time. I would say that here we had one of our best performances of the season today. We weren't able to train a lot, because I was very sick last week and it was a very hard program. But certainly the support of our team cheering us on and honestly the whole Japanese audience was so energetic that we were able to push through and I hope that I'll have the chance to come back many more times (to the team event). (on who directs the Kiss & Cry performances of the teams) For our team it is definitely a group effort, but I take a lot of responsibility as a team captain to be at as many events as I can be. I'm trying to help and to make sure that the skater feels supported and special and just remind them how much support they have in the team box.

#### **Misato Komatsubara (JPN), 2<sup>nd</sup> place after Day Two**

For Team Japan we got several season best scores. (on what he expects for the final day) Pairs and singles are difficult to predict, just as Madison said. Our Ladies said leave the rest to us and I'm very proud of what they said. I hope everybody will finish with a smile tomorrow. (on what she expects for the final day. For us, of course we're still not at the level we'd like to be and at Worlds we didn't qualify for the free dance, but we were given the great opportunity to perform our free dance today and all the cheering from our teammates really pushed us even during the program when it was really tough for us. (on who directs the Kiss & Cry performances of the teams) For team Japan it is also a group effort. As for the men, they said we want this or that, so they had actual requests. As a captain I'm grateful for their ideas.

#### **Nikita Katsalapov (RUS), 3<sup>rd</sup> place after Day Two**

Today our pair started off very well with a personal best score and won the short program. I hope they'll continue the same way. Victoria and myself also set a personal best and skated very well. Our guys were trying very hard. Andrei Lazukin did a great job and contributed to the team. Alexander Samarin also fought. He made a regrettable mistake, but he still did all he could do. (on what he expects for the final day) We have very strong opponents and the gap to first place is very big. I put my hopes on our pair and Lisa Tuktamysheva is in very good shape. I think she and Sofia Samodurova will be able to show their best skating. We can maybe count on moving up one spot or at least to hold our position. (on team members achieving a seasons best) I think what helps us to achieve a good result at this competition is what everybody has said. The spirit and the team are very friendly. Vika and I were looking to enjoy the last performances of the season and I think that helped us to open up and to leave our soul and everything we have on the ice and to finish the season on a high note. (on who directs the Kiss & Cry performances of the team) We just planned it according to the performances of our guys. We just wanted to do something fun and cheer up our athletes.