

PRESS CONFERENCE

Ladies, after Short Program

Alina Zagitova (RUS), 1st after the Short Program

(On performance and on their preparation) I wanted to prepare very accurately and worked on all of my elements and their execution, of both of the short program and the free skating. I paid attention to the choreography and the spins as well. (On her program and relating to the music) We decided with my coaches that I need to develop personally and my skating further, so we have chosen this difficult composition. At first it was difficult to live in the moment and to get that impression. We have talked a lot within my team and they helped me to understand who I am representing. Therefore it got easier and now I already know what I am skating to, which story I am telling.

(On coming back after a bad skate at Russian Nationals) It was difficult to go back to training. But my coaches and relatives helped me a lot to gain my motivation and positive emotions back. I went back to my home town after Nationals to sort my emotions and this all made it easier to finally go back to my training.

(On getting ready for the short program) Yesterday I just laid down and relaxed. (On being her own main rival) My coaching team helps me a lot with my confidence and I'm very thankful for this. I hope to show this in free skate as well and show a good performance. (On the expectations coming in as a favorite) I didn't see or hear anything. No social media. I only watched serials.

Sofia Samodurova (RUS), 2nd after the Short Program

I have worked on all my elements, as well as did Alina. I do believe that all need our attention. First we had a training camp in Estonia and then we went to Novogorsk for a few days and I think that it worked out quite well. (On response of Japanese Fans) I haven't seen any response, and I don't know how to judge this, whether it's good or bad.

(On being in the top three after the short and approach to the free skate) The result came as a surprise. Probably the secret here is to show what you're capable of. No matter of the result, you have to skate clean and forget about emotions. (On Tatiana Tarasova wishing luck to her) It's true. We didn't see each other after this moment. It's nevertheless very nice and gives you a lot of self confidence to know that such famous people are there for you and this makes you show even better skating.

Alexia Paganini (SUI), 3rd after the Short Program

To prepare for this competition, I really focused on getting levels on my individual elements in order to maximize my score. We also really worked on the transitions between my elements. Overall really happy with my performance.

(On being in the top three after the short and approach to the free skate) also a surprise for me, like at the Rostelecom Cup. As for tomorrow, I'll try to do the same as today and just focus on myself. (On how she felt before the skate) I actually was nervous but tried not to show it. Before I started, I was telling myself little things I need to remember to perform my program properly. (On who is her main rival) I haven't really thought about this. I guess just the other European girls.