

PRESS CONFERENCE

Ice Dance, after Free Dance

Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron (FRA), 2019 European Champions

Papadakis: Every medal for us is a great accomplishment. We always want to go to a competition and do our best, whatever that means, and that was the best we could do so we are very, very happy with it. (On new costumes) We have new costumes for both programs this competition. It's just that we like to always improve everything, from choreography to even sometimes the music and costumes. We like this costume better, we wanted to keep the general idea, keep what worked and improve what could be improved, and we're happy with the result.

Cizeron: (on the success of the French team at this European Championship) We're really proud of the whole team, I think everybody did a really good job and I don't know when the last time was that we had two gold medals in two different disciplines but it must have been a while. We're very proud to be the first [placed] nation at this Championship, that also hasn't happened for a long time, or I don't know when. We will celebrate tonight with the whole team as it means a lot for France and our federation. (On whether he feels he has won a medal and a half after choreographing Vanessa James and Morgan Cipres' short program) No, their medal is entirely theirs, they've worked so hard for this. I'm just really happy and humble to have been part of their choreography. We're just so proud and happy for the whole team. (On choreographing for James/Cipres) It's been interesting to be on that side of the creation and I think it probably made me understand more what our coaches are going through, so maybe I'm a little bit less annoying [for them] now. It's been interesting. (On rest after Europeans) We're going back to Montreal after this and will probably rest for a couple of days, then back to training and preparing for Worlds. It's going to be a long period of preparation but it's exciting to be able to work on details and maybe change a few things and work on the whole program.

Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin (RUS), 2019 European silver medalists

Stepanova: (On two bronzes and a silver medal at Europeans representing a step towards a future gold) We're incredibly happy to have first won bronze medals then reaffirmed that with a silver. It's a big step forward and spurs us on to work further and harder. (On showing sensuality and a good connection) I think it's one of the main components of ice dance so I'm very happy that many people have said this us and given us compliments about it, saying that they have been given feelings and emotions by our performances. (On rest after Europeans) I don't think we will have much rest as we've only just had New Year and we relaxed then. We'll maybe take just two days off, then we can start to look in detail at our mistakes to prepare for Worlds.

Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri (ITA), 2019 European bronze medalists

Fabbri: Finally we feel the work we've made throughout the years has been rewarded and of course we're very proud of what we've achieved this season. We've had to wait maybe a bit longer than other couples to get to this point, but we are finally getting what we worked for. (On plans after Europeans) We're going to take some days off after this, maybe one week or something like that, then were going to go back on the ice, we'll study these papers [the results print outs] very meticulously and that's it. I will study a lot because I have an exam at university in ten days' time in English. (On whether they consider this a successful season) I guess so. Finally the work we've made throughout the years is being rewarded. We are proud of what we achieved this season. We had to maybe wait a little bit more than other couples to get to this point. We're finally having what we worked for.