

## **PRESS CONFERENCE**

Men, after Short Program

### **Mikhail Kolyada (RUS), 1<sup>st</sup> after the Short Program**

(On support from Japanese fans) It's always really very nice when people come from far away places to support athletes, it feels very nice, so I would say a huge thanks for the support, and for all their letters and presents. (On whether today is an ordinary day or something special) Is it OK for me to say it's nothing special?! No, the free program is still ahead so it's too early to say anything.

### **Alexander Samarin (RUS), 2<sup>nd</sup> after the Short Program**

(On whether he felt less pressure after not winning Russian Nationals and that influenced his performance) It's hard to say. We still have same programs to do to and the same music so I can't say there is any additional pressure. (On whose support is important to him) Of course my family and friends, and my coaches who work with me at CSKA. I got an unbelievably warm reception from the crowd and that was really cool. (On changing his planned quad flip to a triple) I was going for the quad flip but I think I didn't have enough experience in competition. It was the very first attempt.

### **Javier Fernandez (ESP), 3<sup>rd</sup> after the Short Program**

I've been away quite a bit this season but that doesn't mean I've gone through my whole life – I've seen mistakes today in figure skating I've not seen in my whole life. I don't know if they forgot I'm still a figure skater, but [I hope] somehow they will get their minds together for the free program because I think that was a great short and they didn't show it in the pdf [result print out]. (On support from others) I had three weeks training in Toronto before here and I didn't have much time to train with Yuzuru Hanyu and Evgenia Medvedeva – Evgenia because she was not coming to Europeans she wasn't in Toronto so much. She got to Toronto a few days before I actually left, so unfortunately it was not such a long time. But they always support me and they always give me strength, they are great people and great skaters and it is always amazing to have them around. (On whether three weeks of training was enough) Definitely three weeks was not long enough time to prepare for one competition but I actually did it. I was skating before that but not training 100 per cent. But I recognise a lot in figure skating, I've been skating all my life. I had a cheated quad Salchow today that was not [cheated]. I saw it on the ice and it was not. So that's why judges have slow motion. I saw I got a +2 and a -2 for this quad Salchow so that's five points difference. I don't what it means [has happened] in these ten months, but I'm surprised. (On retirement) This will be my last competition. It doesn't matter what happens, it's going to be my last. I said before the Olympics I would come to this Europeans and this is exactly what I'm going to do. (On 13 appearances at Europeans) I was a bit nervous when I went to skate today, but actually I'd been training great for this competition when I was back in Toronto so I'm hoping to do really well in this competition and try to fight for a gold medal again. That's exactly what I will do for the free program. I'm known for comebacks so if they let me tomorrow, I'll do it. (On what his feeling will be after the free program tomorrow) I definitely got a lot of advice from many people. If tomorrow is going to be my last free program in elite competition I think at the end of the day you have to have your mind set and know what you're going to do later, and that is something I know. So it's going to be difficult to switch from one life to another but I know it's going to be really exciting and I'm going to be connected with figure skating, so as long as I keep doing the thing I've been doing all my life, which is related to figure skating, I think everything's going to be OK.