

PRESS CONFERENCE

Pairs, after Free Skating

Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres (FRA), 2019 European Champions

Cipres: It was an amazing feeling tonight for us. Not only about making history. We're going to enjoy this victory for the rest of our lives. We were nervous today before and in the program. We know Vlad (Morozov) and Evgenia (Tarasova) and what they can do and knew we need to fight tonight again. I'm proud of this little team (Boikova/Kozlovskii) who became a big team now. I remember I told them at Skate Canada they will be on the podium too, and here they are, congratulations. (On not retiring) We are happy about our decision not to retire after the last worlds and to be on the ice again. We did an amazing beginning of the season. Today, it's an accomplishment, but it's not over yet. As real sportsmen, we want to get more and more. We will keep going on. (On entering the competition being in first place and what they learned compared to last year) I don't even remember that. But I remember a lot of things I learned. It wasn't easy today. I didn't sleep well here because of the jetlag, so I have even more time to think about everything. We learned a lot of things. We learn about winning but also about defeat. Today we just stepped on the ice and wanted the title. Last year it was more of a surprise to be first (after the Short Program), today we were more prepared.

James: (on their creative lifts) We work a lot in the summer, actually when we take time off. I'm thinking a lot and writing down everything that comes to my mind doable. Then we work it out with our coaches. We have changed them (the lifts) a bit and keep doing this throughout the season. We try not to stay just comfortable. It's all team work, we have very good coaches. It is a continuous work.

Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov (RUS), 2019 European silver medalists

Morozov: In today's program we made the same mistake as in short. Overall we worked well in the program and did the first jump excellently, two throws and we're very pleased with today's skating. Just these two mistakes that we did yesterday and today were punished. We'll prepare hard and thoroughly for Worlds to fix these mistakes that came out here. We'll work harder. (On not defending their title) At first, the fact that we didn't defend the first place doesn't make us lose the title we got before. This is a part of history now. After all, we are quite satisfied with the program today despite the mistake. In general the lifts and speed were good. We will try to keep it up until Worlds.

Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitri Kozlovskii (RUS), 2019 European bronze medalists

Kozlovskii: We're exhausted, both emotionally and physically. These are surprising emotions to be at Europeans for the first time and to be on podium right away. It's cool. We felt a special responsibility representing Russia here, Russia always had champions on the podium. Since one of the pairs, Natalia Zabiiako and Alexander Enbert, was not able to come due to injury to this competition, we felt we needed to do it and get on the podium. And we are happy that we managed to do this. (On their Short Program) The short program is obviously an eternal worldwide hit, it's "Dark Eyes". I believe, a lot of athletes have performed to this music, but this jazz version I've heard for the very first time. Natalia Bestemianova (choreographer) has suggested this music to us and together with her husband Igor Bobrin, she mounted this program for us. I can say that it was a very impressive creative process as the character is a bit different from the original gypsy idea (of this music). In the program, I am not a gypsy, but as an aristocrat. I'm having a good life and don't really have too much to worry about and I can allow myself all kind of enjoyments. On one party I find some distraction, while the gypsy girl follows her own interests. So in the whole program Sasha (Boikova) seduces me and I'm not offering too much resistance.

Boikova: (On their Nutcracker Free Skating) The program was choreographed by Peter Tchernyshev and we did it already last season, but we didn't skate it to its full potential. No it has reached its potential and I think Peter will be happy with us. It is the classical interpretation. I am in the role of Maria, Dmitri is the prince. We're skating the part at the end, when Dmitri already has become the prince and everything is good, like in the fairy tale.