



April 15 - April 18, 2021 Osaka, Japan

Press Conference

Team Captains, after Day One

Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (RUS), 1st after Day One

(on her team's performance on Day One) Today was a very good day for the Russian team. All of us did a great job, the girls, the boys, the dancers. I am very happy how it turned out and I hope that in the next days our team shows the same high level of skating and we remain in first place. (on being the team captain for the first time) I was very honoured and surprised when I found out that I was going to be the captain of the Russian team. It was a bit nerve-wracking at first as I did not quite know what I had to do, but when I came here I learned about my obligations and it is not that difficult. It is indeed fun, we have a great, strong team here, therefore it is all going very well so far. Hopefully as captain, I will try to pass on some energy to the guys for good performances so that we all can be pleased. The most important thing is to enjoy it here and to have fun. (on the theme or slogan of the team) Before we went out for the team presentation, we talked to each other and I said that first of all this is a celebration and the most important thing at this competition is to enjoy it and to try to have a blast. I think we all know that the Russian team is very strong and we want to try to prove this one more time and have fun. I think everything will work out with this kind of mindset. Russia, go, is the slogan you can often hear at competition.

Jason Brown (Team USA), 2nd after Day One

(on his team's performance on Day One) I'm super super proud of my teammates today. World Team Trophy is just such a fun event. I just love the opportunity to be here and skating in front of an audience. I'm so grateful! And you know what was really exciting today, a couple of us had season's best. I'm really really proud of my team, they're all incredible athletes and I'm just looking forward to another great day tomorrow. (on being Team Captain for the first time) I really echo what Lisa said, I'm just so honoured and humbled to be team captain for the USA. We all voted on it, so I got an e-mail saying I just became the team captain, so I was so thrilled. I just love representing the USA, the event and the fact that we all get dressed up in our countries' colours and cheer each other up. So, it's one of my favourite things to do and to be there to support my teammates. So, before leading up to the event I worked a lot with ideas, bought goods and kind of things that we could do well in Japan to bring up our team spirit. It's been a lot of fun, our whole team has a big group chat where we're talking and sending each other messages. I'm just looking forward to continue giving them as much energy as well. (on the theme or slogan of the team) For the opening ceremony, when we were on the stage, me and my team, I said that we are trained, we are strong, we are healthy and happy to be here and having the opportunity to skate in front of a live audience. So, that is what I told them and that is our slogan.

Ryuichi Kihara (Team JPN), 3rd after Day One

(on his team's performance on Day One) For the Team from Japan, all of us are actually coming back from Worlds. It's truly a consecutive competition and we didn't have a lot of time after getting back home, in addition to that we had to get ourselves isolated, so the preparation was a little bit different from normal. But compared to what we had to go through, I really think that all of the members of Team Japan did really well, starting with Komatsubara-san, Sakamoto-san, Kihira-san, Uno-san, Hanyu-san, they all did great and I think that we were able to give courage to the Japanese audience in some way.



WORLD TEAM TROPHY in Figure Skating 2021



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(on being team captain for the first time) This is actually not only my first World Team Trophy as a team captain, but the first World Team Trophy that I'm taking part in. What happened was, after Worlds when we were getting ready to leave Stockholm, we met in the hotel lobby and they asked me to be the team captain and that's how that happened. I'm not really the type for a strong leader usually, but as a pair skater I make it my motto to always maintain a positive attitude and that's really what I want to share across the entire team to ensure that they are very positively engaging in this competition. (on the theme or slogan of the team) Team Japan is actually a team full of very unique personalities and we are determined to do our best for Japan and we are a very strong team. But it's not like we are very formal, especially Sakamoto-san and the rest, they are always full of smiles and I think that we have a great team unity. If there is a theme to our team, I think that it would be: be positive and keep smiling.