

April 15 - April 18, 2021 Osaka, Japan

Press Conference

Team Captains, after Day Three

Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (Team RUS), 2021 World Team Trophy Champions

(on the performances on the final day) I am happy with my performance, it was almost clean, with little mistakes. I am happy for the other people of my team, the skating was great, in pairs, in dance and Anna Shcherbakova. I am so proud of my team. After a difficult World Championship we had only two weeks to get back in shape and we skated well. We are so happy to be here and we enjoyed every moment. (on Russia winning the ISU World Team Trophy for the first time and the secret of their success) Our secret – we have very strong athletes – women and men, pairs and ice dance. To finally be in first place (at World Team Trophy) means a lot to us, because we didn't have the Russian flag at the World Championships and here, when we hear the Russian anthem on the podium, we were so proud of each other and so happy. (on the significance of the World Team Trophy before the upcoming Olympic team event). This is a little practice of the Olympic Games. It is going to be nearly the same at the Olympic Games, because when you have World Team Trophy you have a lot of energy and you support each other. When you skate for your team, it gives you a lot of positive energy and for me every time this so important. After this competition, we should understand what we need to do at the Olympics. It is important to have World Team Trophy before the Olympic Games. (on which team was the best cheering) I like the USA, because they have a lot of fun stuff and it was every time so funny. I really can see how you enjoy this competition and this is great. I love our team how they were cheering for each other. Actually, when you saw the Kiss & Cry, all the teams were so creative and it was interesting to see what they would do after the program. There is no winner here, everybody was great.

Jason Brown (Team USA), 2021 World Team Trophy silver medalists

(on the performances on the final day) I know, I said this a lot this week, but I'm just so proud of Team USA, I'm so proud of their fight, of their heart and courage out there. We are just all so grateful to be here and to be in front of an audience. It's so special to be in Japan, it's always so special like the cherry on top. You know, we really had such a difficult year, so we're thrilled and so proud. We're looking forward to returning home, taking a little break and then working towards the Olympic Season. (on the significance of the World Team Trophy before the upcoming Olympic team event) Lisa put it so nicely, I'll go with everything she says, but this is kind of like a pre-practice to the Olympic Games. The next step is making it to the Olympic team. There's a deep field in the U.S. so it's just trying to get an Olympic spot, from there making it on to the team event as well. But I do think we're going to be cheering so loud and proud. I think one of the biggest takeaways from this event is how much strength we pulled from each other and how much we learned, bonded this week and just built up this great comradery. It's only been positive, I think the louder we cheer, the more our teammates feel that they have their support on the ice and pushes them to work harder and to fight harder also. I hope that the Olympic Team is the next team we're going to be a part of. (on which team was the best cheering) I think we just all had so much fun representing our countries, wearing our colors so proudly. I really thought that the French team was really, really fun to watch. They were so funny, they had so many different costumes and outfits and wigs. They brought it, so it was really fun to see.

Ryuichi Kihara (Team JPN), 2021 World Team Trophy bronze medalists

(on the performances on the final day) I think all of us worked really hard, I'm very proud of my teammates. After the World Championships we didn't have enough time to adjust and also there was quarantine and some had boot issues. As a whole team, for the country of

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Japan, we fought well and I'm really proud. (on the significance of the World Team Trophy before the upcoming Olympic team event) Yes, maybe the Olympic Games might be a little bit different, but at the World Team Trophy we all experienced that the scheduling is quite different from the ordinary competitions. (on which team was the best cheering) All the teams were very creative, you can see that they really love their country. It's difficult to name one, but the U.S. and Russia, they seemed very united, so I think that was nice.