

QUICK QUOTES

Men, Short Program (warm up group 6)

Jason Brown (USA) 2020 Four Continents silver medalist

(on competing today for only the third time in an arena this season) Having that opportunity of Las Vegas (2021 US Nationals) to be without an audience definitely was helpful coming into this event. I tried to keep it contained, really focused, taking it element by element because without having an audience you don't get that energy coming back at you the same way. Also, because the program is so new, I don't have that experience to know how to perform it, where to push, where not to push, how to fill out the ice in the different arenas. (his overall goal for the free skate) Besides skating clean, since I haven't competed so many times (this season) to know the in and outs of energy management, it's really about keeping that training mentality of 'this is how we trained it, this is how it's we're competing it.'

Yuzuru Hanyu (JPN) 2014 & 2018 Olympic Champion

Mentally I'm much more confident and I think that I can work on my program step by step. I hope that I touched everyone with my program and left an impression everyone will keep in their hearts. (on skating without an audience) Of course it somehow felt lonely. But because of times like this I hope that everyone in front of the TV or the internet really enjoyed the program.

Daniel Grassl (ITA) 2021 National Champion

(On the pressure at this competition) I was very nervous. This winter I was ill with Covid for a month. I also felt pressure skating after the two-time Olympic champion (Yuzuru Hanyu). It was pressure for me, but I was also quite happy to skate after him because he is so good and I get to see his skating, and I'm sure that next time it (my skating) will be better. After the Covid I trained for one month and a half for this competition. It was really difficult for me but I practiced so much. I was so nervous for this competition, because it means a lot, it's also my first World Championship but also the Olympic qualification where Italy tries to bring two places for the Olympics and we really hope that we will do it in the free skate.

Matteo Rizzo (ITA) 2019 European bronze medalist

I was a little bit nervous, it was a long time without competition at such a high level so I think it's normal when you go back to this level to have a little bit of my nerves, but overall I'm OK with my performance today. I'm a little bit disappointed of the quad, there was a little mistake there. For the scores, I can understand that they're not very high because it's the first time since a long time that the judges haven't seen us altogether so it's normal, but overall there are not so many points between me and the other guys so for the free skate I will push as hard as I can.

Nathan Chen (USA) 2018 & 2019 World Champion

I'm so grateful to be here. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to compete at an international (competition). Competing internationally is challenging. It's always so different from competing domestically— with travel, with jet lag, with all these different variables. And I'm saying all this, as in, I don't want to make excuses for myself, but these are variables that I do have to consider. And I kind of haven't had to deal with (these variables) in the past season. So I'm glad I have this opportunity to learn from mistakes and things that I did well. And again, as I've sort of previously said in past interviews, just as athletes—as elite athletes, for us to just be entirely considerate of how we perform at competitions. We have nothing to complain about; we're so lucky and so blessed to have this opportunity.

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So that's just my perspective in regards to being able to compete. As for the program in itself—you know, disappointing. I made a big mistake right off the bat, which is, I wouldn't say unconventional, but something that doesn't normally happen to me. So I had to figure out how to regroup right after that, and that was not an ideal way to start off that program. But mistakes happen, and I'm glad I had, again, this opportunity to sort of learn from it and move forward.

Morisi Kvitalashvili (GEO) 2020 European bronze medalist

No comment