

QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Rhythm Dance (warm up groups 2 & 4)

Chelsea Verhaegh/Sherim van Geffen (NED)

Verhaegh: (On the RD) I really enjoyed it, I think it was a lot of fun. I think we did well for the first World Championships. From my side there were no big mistakes that we made. (On starting ice dancing) We are both singles skaters for quite a long time, not on a very high level, I did some internationals and he did mostly Dutch competitions. A few years ago I started to get more interested in ice dance, and started looking for a partner, and eventually our previous coach suggested to him to try out ice dance, and we tried out together, and we didn't necessarily think we would be a couple now, but after trying out together it looked like it was going to work, so then we started doing it full time. At the moment in the Netherlands we don't really have ice dance. In Netherlands we actually did some online classes with Zoom. Maurizio (Margalio, coach) was on the phone and we were having online classes once a week in Netherlands. (On financial support) We don't have one big sponsor but we did do crowdfunding, and we did that also for this trip to Finland, and there were actually quite a lot of fans who supported us from the Netherlands and donated money, so that really helps us. We are still looking for something more steady so we can get some more financial help.

van Geffen: After we started, we skated like once or twice a week. Then there was the Olympic development project in Finland (in 2019), we took part there and learned a lot there, and also met Maurizio Margaglio. That was really our kick start to ice dance.

Misato Komatsubara/Tim Koleto (JPN) 2020 NHK Trophy Champions

Koleto: (On their performance that has qualified them to the free dance for the first time at Worlds) Today I think we were able to dance more than in the past. We hadn't seen our (Montreal) coaches in person in maybe 11 months so we wanted to use this week as an opportunity to share the same space with them again. Today I feel like, with our performance, we were able to celebrate all the work we've been doing together remotely. In Colorado Springs we worked with Benjamin Agosto who helped us when we couldn't take Zoom lessons with our coaches in Montreal. He really took us under his wing and we're lucky everybody (including Cathy Reed in Japan) was able to collaborate in such a special way.

Komatsubara: (On their reaction seeing coaches face to face in almost a year) We were so excited and overjoyed to see them -- "like they're not 2D (dimensional) but 3D!" They're very professional and I love that they didn't try to give us too much information.

Katharina Müller/Tim Dieck (GER) 2021 National Champions

Dieck: First of all we are very thankful that we are here. We got the qualification, we are number one in Germany, but last year Worlds were cancelled. We are so happy that in those difficult times it was possible for us to compete at such a big event. (On returning to Moscow to train in February) We still have our coaches in Germany, like the ones who brought us together and arranged the tryouts, Vitali Schultz and our national coach Martin Skotnický, but we are now practicing with Anjelica (Krylova), and I would say we found the coach that we had always searched for. It was an awesome feeling to be able to go back to her. It felt almost like we had been there all the time. Still, this group and this team is incredible to be in.

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Müller: We really enjoyed to skate today. We had so much practice, almost the whole week we were just practicing. The other athletes had already been competing, and we were like, we want to go out, we want to compete too, so the patience was already quite low. Finally we could go on the ice today and skate.

Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro (FSR) 2020 Rostelecom Cup silver medalists

Zagorski: I think today we came out with a lot of energy. We wanted to have a good last skate of the season and I think that while I myself maybe let out a few mistakes I could have not done, I think overall we came out strong and I hope we entertained everyone. There were just some small things between us that we could feel and I think it was noticeable in the step sequence that I had a little wobble, I think that was the big one that was noticeable, the rest was just between ourselves, we felt a few things we could have done a bit better. In terms of points and rankings, of course here our points are maybe not quite the same as what we've been getting in Russia but of course we're in the world arena, and the draw is always important. We ended up being in one of the earlier groups which also could have an effect on points but overall we're pretty happy with our levels and skating.

Guerreiro: (on their relationship) The key word is partnership, so I think it is important to have a good working relationship, a good human relationship, and it is important to be able to connect with each other not only working day to day but to be able through that relationship to be able to connect on the ice. I feel if people have a forced relationship you can feel it when they skate.