

QUICK QUOTES

Men, Short Program (warm up group 5)

Junhwan Cha (KOR) 2020 Four Continents Championships 5th

For today's short program, I'm glad that I was able to skate in a calm manner, just as I have been in practice, while preparing for the World Championships in Sweden. So I'm satisfied with my performance. (On the challenges of COVID, especially in regards to continuing training with Brian Orser and the other coaches at TCC) After the cancellation of the World Championships last season, I returned to Korea and took a bit (just a bit!) of time to rest while also taking care of my injury before gradually getting back into training. The time difference between Canada and Seoul made it very difficult, almost impossible, to continue training with Brian, Tracy, and my other coaches at TCC. Given the unique circumstances of this COVID-19 pandemic, it was even difficult to skate in Korea (with the rinks being closed), and I was not able to continue training with my usual team. We did send videos back and forth a bit, from time to time, and this was about it. I used to have a strict training regimen pre-COVID, but with the pandemic, even the rinks were closed—meaning that I was often not even able to practice. So these aspects were difficult (in terms of adjustment). Still, I tried my best to continue training the best that I could.

Shoma Uno (JPN), 2018 Olympic & World silver medalist

When I re-watched my program I think I could have landed my jump (he fell on the triple Axel), so I was very frustrated. But looking at the whole program I had a lot of fun and it was a good performance. When I was in Switzerland I had a very good condition, but since I had a hard time. I didn't know what went wrong. I wasn't frustrated, I was just confused. In the six minutes training my jumps went well. For the free skating I want to do as today - beside of the mistake- enjoy the program and show my gratitude to all of you. (on how it felt to skate without spectators) I'm just joking, but I would say that if there would have been an audience, I would have succeeded. Putting the joke aside, it was a very strange feeling and atmosphere to skate without any spectators and that might be the reason why I wasn't over excited and I could have kept up my level.

Boyang Jin (CHN), 2016 & 2017 World bronze medalist

I didn't perform very well today. I made mistakes on the quad Lutz as well as the quad toeloop. But I managed to land the triple Axel, and all the spins and footwork are level four. So for me, it's the first two jumps that I didn't do well. I hesitated a little bit. I should do them more determinately. There weren't so many competitions this year, so I felt a little bit nervous. (on cooperating with Brian Orser and Tracy Wilson) We started to cooperate officially after the 2020 Cup of China. But before that we already had several step courses. We had one class per day at 9 am (Beijing Time). So this year is a little bit challenging for me without training with coaches face to face. It was hard for me. After the Championship, I'm afraid that we still have to work remotely for the time being given to the pandemic. If the situation becomes better, I may go to Canada for training.

Kevin Aymoz (FRA) 2019 GP Final bronze medalist

I'm really happy with what I did, I took my revenge on the European championships (2020 – when he failed to qualify for the Free Skating), I'm not really happy with the scores, but I messed up a little bit so I think the scores are fair. I'm gonna fight on the free skate to be in the top 10. (on his preparations before the championships) In France I was really OK as I was in Grenoble, in my hometown and my coach Françoise Bonnard was with me, she was my coach for 15 years, so she knows me and I know her very well.

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It's been a long year but we are prepared the best we can. The federation was with me, my coach, I couldn't go to the USA, so it was not easy to prepare but I was lucky. There is nothing to complain about my preparation.

Keegan Messing (CAN) 2020 GP Skate America bronze medalist

I would say my season has been very good. We've actually had a very good training season back home in Alaska. We had very little opportunities taken away from us, so we were able to train pretty much as well as we would any year. The only thing we had to modify a bit was the off-ice training. Instead of going into the gym I stayed home, so it was picking up the chainsaw and doing spots with it, or taking up car batteries to do different things to get some workouts done. The reason I didn't go to (the virtual Skate Canada) Challenge was, after Skate America my boots were completely breaking down, I had to get into something new and I wasn't ready to do it and I took advantage of the bye that I had received to go to Nationals. Coming into Worlds I have been training very very good and honestly every day it feels it's better than the last, especially with the baby coming, and it just fills my heart with joy every single day. I hardly can stop smiling about it, I'm just so excited about the little one coming.

Deniss Vasiljevs (LAT) 2020 Nebelhorn Trophy Champion

Honestly, I am happy! I had a great pleasure. For me skating is a buzz, it is my personal drug, which gave me adrenalin outburst. I like this special moment, when you are scared, when you try to tear yourself inside hundreds of times. And then you go on the ice and feel as a rock in the eye of the storm and nothing else matters. Inside I felt the energy that was accumulating during this season, and finally had a way out. I feel grateful that we had an opportunity to come and compete here. (on this season) I felt that the season was over, when the European Championships were cancelled. We changed the skates right away. So there was a little bit of surprise that the World Championships was going to happen. And then this rush brought me so much joy. What I missed a little this season is a motivation, because I had no competition at all after the Nebelhorn Trophy. I think if I had a couple of competitions more, I could finally do all I want to do. But I am in a good mood and I enjoyed my short program today.