

## QUICK QUOTES

Ladies, Free Skating (warm up group 4)

### **Yelim Kim (KOR), 2021 National Champion**

I was doing really well in my practice today, but because I made a lot of errors in the actual performance, I feel that it's really unfortunate and am a bit disappointed in myself. Entering into the competition, I tried not to think about the fact that the results here would determine the number of spots we could attain for the Olympics. Obtaining three tickets (to the Olympic Games) would not be easy, so I tried to compete here without thinking too much about this.

### **Kaori Sakamoto (JPN), 2020 NHK Trophy Champion**

For my first triple-triple jump I did a three-turn, but in the second half I was able to skate as planned and my jumps were good. As for the score, it just is what it is. I feel that the error in the Lutz in the short program and free program were a big blow, so I feel like 70 percent will end up to be a deduction. I will work on that as my number one focus. (on not being satisfied about the score) Yes, up until now I think I might have gotten maybe 150, but I'm 15 lower. I guess that happens and I'm still a little bit frustrated, but this is the kind of thing I need to experience, so I will accept it. (on pressure) To be honest, when I wasn't skating I thought of that a big deal, but during the performance I wanted to focus on my skating.

### **Karen Chen (USA), 2021 National bronze medalist**

(On her performance today) I'm really proud of myself for delivering a solid short and free program. I can't say my free skate was perfect but I did everything I could possibly do and I fought for it and because of that I'm honestly proud of myself. (On her plans for adding a triple Axel to her repertoire) Yes, that is an element that I really, really want to get -- even since I was little I was 'I really want a triple Axel'. Once the season is over I'm going to work really hard on that and hopefully get it in time for the Olympic season. (On her reaction after she found out she had helped the USA ladies gain a third spot for the Olympics) I was in shock for sure, just because the situation (with 3 competitors left to skate) wasn't looking that great. I was really happy and felt a lot of emotions and I have no regrets -- regardless if we had secured two spots or three spots -- I was just proud of myself for delivering two really great programs and I honestly couldn't wish for anything better.

### **Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (FSR), 2015 World & European Champion**

The feeling is amazing. I didn't want to think about the placement nor podium when I was going here but deep down I was hoping that perhaps after all I'll medal and when it happened the emotions are incredible, am so happy and am so in peace with myself now - I did all I could and am 2nd. I'm so satisfied, thanks to Mishin and Prokofieva, it was all for them. I'm so glad. The next goal is just to make it to the (Olympic) team just like I did to the worlds. I will do all I can to make it happen. Am thrilled the pre-olympic season am 2nd at the Worlds and it will give me the motivation and the will to keep working. (the competition within Russia what is the secret you being here) I don't know what is the secret, I just deal with the situation and I want to continue developing just as the figure skating develops, not to be left out, to improve. I don't feel the responsibility as such, but I want to show the women in figure skating that

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everything is possible and that medal at the Worlds at the age of 24 is a proof.

**Rika Kihira (JPN), 2020 & 2019 Four Continents Champion**

(on the selection of the music, Shinya Kiyozuka's "Baby, God Bless You"; what she most hopes to convey and express through the piece, the choreography and the program as a whole) I really love this piece too, so I selected this piece myself. I made the theme of this piece: the beauty of life. And I wanted to express the beauty of life—the beauty and dignity of life being born—through this program. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to show that kind of expression today, and I'm sorry that it wasn't able to happen.

**Anna Shcherbakova (FSR), 2020 European silver medalist**

Honestly I don't know what to say after my performance I really tried to do my best and fight for every element am not satisfied at all with my performance but I'm so happy I'm first it was my goal, thank you so much everyone. It was a real fight for me because from the first element everything was not like I wanted and ever next element I understood that now I can try to do best on every element and not lose points. (on her upcoming 17th birthday on Sunday) I really didn't think about it before because I was only thinking about my competition but maybe we will do something with my coaches and I want to thank them it was a very season and very difficult preparation for so thank them and my parents they were supporting me also.