

## QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Free Dance (warm up group 4)

### **Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin (FSR) 2020 European bronze medalists**

Stepanova: (on how they moved on after the mistake in Rhythm dance) I would use the rude expression: we had nothing to lose. We made a gross mistake and as a result finished very far from the top three. So today we decided with our coaches to skate with our hearts, to skate for each other. Not to worry and to finish this season on the highest note for us and for our team. (on what they learned from this competition) This competition was a huge lesson for us. Not the Grand Prix, nor the Championships of Russian Federation, this was the main competition this season and to learn this lesson here is a huge experience. I think it will give us a big push in the future.

### **Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier (CAN) 2020 Four Continents silver medalists**

Gilles: (On winning their first medal, bronze, at the World Championships) I'm so proud that we pushed through and we didn't let the uncertainty of everything get in the way. I think we've been thriving off the uncertainty of everything because we know the ability that we have. We just loved our performance skate and it came out on the ice today and we're just absolutely thrilled.

Poirier: I'm at a loss for words. This is our eighth World Championships together. We were kind of stuck between sixth and eight for a very long time -- essentially since 2014. Just the pent-up frustration of so many years and being able to accomplish this feels like such a nice release, and once we've had time to process it as well and be home with the rest of our team -- with Carol and Jon (Lane), as well as our family and friends, I think it will feel much more real. What we were able to accomplish today is the product of so many people's efforts and we want to be able to celebrate that with them.

### **Madison Chock/Evan Bates (USA) 2019 & 2020 Four Continents Champions**

Chock: (on looking ahead to next season) We learned a lot about ourselves and our skating over the past month so we're excited to go home and start building again from where we left off. We're in a really good place and we've still got a lot of room to grow. We know how we want to push ourselves and we're going to go home and do just that.

Bates: (on the performance) Madi was so excited when we finished. She looked at me and I was like, I didn't skate as well as you did, babe. There were certainly a few seconds in the program where I made some technical errors that were obviously costly, and honestly I'm quite disappointed about it. But that's kind of what we love about the sport. If it was a guaranteed thing every time that we could just show up and win the gold medal then it would be very easy and fun, but the real pleasure I think comes from working really hard, getting knocked down and coming back stronger. We've been through a lot of those moments and I think this is one moment in particular that is quite disappointing for us, but we're certainly going to come back next season stronger and with the same goals in mind.

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**Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue (USA) 2019 World bronze medalists**

Hubbell: We're feeling a strange mixture of emotions right now. There's relief that this competition is over and proud of how we handled this week and the stress of international competition after a year and our performance today felt really present and intentional it's really a joy to skate together when it's like that. But there's also that bit of dissatisfaction at not bringing home the gold medal so right now I'm a little bit numb. In a few minutes I'm sure I'll be bouncing off the walls excited.

Donohue: (on whether they will change program next season) We've thought about doing something else and we'll have to talk about whether there's anything else to pull out of this program. For us we feel once we've served the program its purpose it's time to move on to something else. So we'll wait for the Team Trophy and then have the conversation.

**Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov (FSR) 2020 European Champions**

Sinitsina: I'm so happy I don't know what to say right now, I just want to smile and cry. This is a very unique World Championships and the emotions are overwhelming. I had my eyes wet before the performance and they are still wet after. I am really grateful to Nikita for his huge support.

Katsalapov: (on their emotions during their performance) I don't know what to say about the emotions, I left it all on the ice I'm totally empty and it's really amazing. (on their experience at this unusual World Championship) Everything was on the top level the one thing that is missing is the audience but thanks to all who were in the audience today they helped us a lot, we heard our team members who were cheering for us we are really thankful for that. I have no words to describe this feeling. If I had the emotions (I left them on the ice) I would still be screaming. This is cool! I am very proud of my partner Vika, she is a real fighter. She deserves this and I am here next to her. (on what has changed for them after the victory on Europeans last year) It cannot be denied, this is a great experience. And the gold medal of European championships showed us whenever we can fight and overcome the difficulties, trainings, competition stress. It is very important. We get more experienced with every competition. It is not like we fly to the heaven and cannot come down, we start to work twice as hard, because we know we can do even better.