

## QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Rhythm Dance (warm up group 6)

### **Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin (RUS) 2019 Rostelecom bronze medalists**

Hurtado: (on their preparation heading into this event) I came back to Moscow for a short period mid December, I was there for two weeks, then I had to go back to the last checkup with the doctor and then Kirill was home with COVID and I was stuck in Madrid with the worst snowstorm in like 80 years of history and I couldn't fly back earlier, so I got back on the 17th of January or so. So it was a very short condensed hard work to be able to be here today. (on their goal going into the free dance) We would like to show a full program, we really love this program and I think having the opportunity to give it one last push is really nice and we really want to show that tomorrow to see how it has improved, to see how powerful our personality is.

Khaliavin: It was really good for the first (real) competition, not online. We are satisfied and proud of how everything came together. (on the impact of becoming a father on his relationship to figure skating) So far not really. There were no competitions, so I spent the second half of the day at home. I hope it's not going to impact in the future but I will see.

### **Natalia Kaliszek/Maksym Spodyriev (POL) 2021 National Champions**

Kaliszek: We are glad that we skated really nice. We had very nice points, so it was a nice performance for us. (On their season so far) We had one competition before. It was in December, and it was after we were sick with coronavirus. We had two weeks free to get ready for the competition, that was our Polish Nationals, and that was it. For us it was a test if we can do a runthrough.

Sporydiiev: We hoped and expected a clean performance, without big mistakes, and we did it. There was a long time without competitions so we were excited. (On their season so far) For this (Worlds) we prepared much better because we had January and February, we could skate all the time, the pro athletes can train, so it was a normal routine of the day and we had very hard training for the last months. (On their free dance) We have a new free dance, with new elements, new choreography, new music. It's modern, it's a tango, it's about emotions between the girl and the man, with modern tango style, and a little bit of super modern choreography.

### **Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson (GBR) 2019 Skate Canada bronze medalists**

Fear: Before seeing any score or placement we were just really proud of what we did. Based on how we trained we felt we represented that well. We were really pleased with the score given there was a little wobble on my part, we were happy everything else was solid and it was well-received. (On preparing in a pandemic) Our coaching team has been absolutely fantastic and they've given us milestones, whether it's [competition] simulation or doing our performance in costume or sending videos. We have such encouraging and motivated training mates, so the energy has been there the whole season, and they've paced it very well so it's actually flown by.

Gibson: We're really happy with the levels we got, we worked hard on that so it was nice to get that this year. Sometimes in the past we've had to climb our way back up [after the Rhythm Dance] so we can be really proud of that and go and have fun and enjoy our last Vogue of the season.

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

Bukin: We are upset with the mistakes, not so much with the marks. I hope it's not the last worlds and tomorrow is another day. We'll go to the hotel, have some rest and regroup for tomorrow. (on the season) It was a hard start, we were not able to participate in some of the competitions because of being ill, but fortunately it's all in the past we are back and we are thrilled to participate here, it was not clear it would take place, we are happy to skate. (on winning the first European bronze medal here in 2015) First we were so young, we had just moved up to seniors, we didn't have the experience, the pressure was different. There were no expectations, now we are so much older and more experienced and the pressure is higher. It's hard to compare what happened six years ago, so I think the difference is huge.

Stepanova: I made a severe mistake so am very upset, am the one to make the mistake, but there is tomorrow, so...

### **Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu (CHN) 2020 Four Continents Championships 4<sup>th</sup>**

Liu: This is a year full of online courses and without international competitions. We feel a little nervous and excited for competing with high-level skaters for the first time. We feel some pressure. But we manage to handle that. We're satisfied with our performance today. We lost some points on the steps, but overall we're satisfied. (on Montreal coach Pascal Denis coming to Beijing earlier this year to train with them) It's a huge difference. He's able to see our problems clearly. He helped us a lot. (on the World Championship being cancelled in 2020) We prepared for the World Championships more than 60 days last year. We did pretty well last year and gained the approval from judges. We were very confident to get to the top 10. This year we're not able to train abroad.

Wang: And we managed to handle the problems we paid attention to during the practice. (on the World Championship being cancelled in 2020) We trained on our own at first, and then we had online courses. We tried to keep our level. But actually that is impossible. We tried so hard and we encouraged each other every day.