

## QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Free Dance (warm up groups 1 & 2)

### **Alexandra Nazarova/Maxim Nikitin (UKR) 2021 National Champions**

(On what they will take from this World Championships)

Nikitin: You only need to rely on yourself. And that goes for the whole season. This was the last performance this season, it is over and this is the general impression. We haven't had any mistakes, the performance was good, the season in general was solid. (on the additional pressure because of the Olympic spots) We had no pressure, because we had no such particular goal under all these circumstances. First it wasn't clear if the World Championships would happen, after that it was not known if the quotas will be assigned there. So our goal was to show ourselves the best way possible and then will see. (On their plans) We have many plans; a lot is already done for the next season. First of all, we hope that this situation is over...

Nazarova: ...So you could see our smiles, not masks.

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

Komatsubara: I thought we could improve more on our step sequence. I'm annoyed by myself, so I'm on my way to think how I can improve myself. Making the step sequences we can get a higher placement so I'm excited to train again. What was good was that... it was not such an easy situation for us and we were very nervous yesterday. I think our lowest rank in the couple of the last months is much higher than two years ago, which I'm very proud of. Emotions were there and that's what is good. (on pressure) Our coach told us before skating: "Don't think about Olympic spots!" Because we were thinking so much (about the spots). That was a very high pressure. Before the rhythm dance we couldn't sleep at all.

Koleto: There were some struggles inside the program, some pushing and pulling energy where we lost a little bit of our connections. This is only our second World Championship and we were not able to do the Free Dance in Saitama (2019). I'm very proud of the performance we were able to do today. Of course I would like to do more, I was very nervous, much more nervous than Misato, so I think she really helped me find my legs when the program went on. Honestly it's been a hard season, not just for us, but for the coaches, the skaters, the organizing community, so I'm really proud of us and of what we were able to do today and thankful to all our coaching team.

### **Katharina Müller/Tim Dieck (GER) 2021 National Champions**

Müller: It was a good skate, but the points weren't like how we felt. This season didn't count really but we already had over 100 points and also Europeans last year was over 100 points. We kind of expected a little bit more.

Dieck: Also because when we finished the program we felt like it was a good program, and also when we came from the ice waiting with our coach (Anjelika Krylova) she said it was a good program. That's why we say it was not like we skated today. Of course when the scores aren't how you expected, you're a bit upset, but you'll understand the scores like after the competition. Now we have to wait and cross fingers that we got the spot for the Olympics.

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### **Adelina Galyavieva/Louis Thauron (FRA) 2021 National Champions**

Galyavieva: (on their World Championship and coming as the national champions)  
There was a lot of stress about this competition for us. After all it is a qualifying event for the Olympics and we didn't count on going here with expectation of securing two spots. Ourselves and Evgeniia (Lopareva) and Geoffrey (Brissaud) are relatively young teams, we have been skating together for three years and it is a big thing. I am very proud of both teams. Ice dance is at a very high level now, all teams are very good and we managed to pass some couples were were behind last season when there were still competitions taking place. We are proud and are going forward.

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

Wang: (on their performance today) I feel guilty, because problems are on me both today and yesterday. I feel really sorry. All we thought about is trying our best. However, there was pressure in the competition so I made several mistakes.

Liu: Both of us have suffered from injury this year. But we didn't give up our dream (to get to the top 10 in Stockholm). We trained hard with this motivation in our hearts. But as you can see, the training did not turn out so well. Leave the mistakes aside; I'm satisfied with our performance today. This is the level we have right now. We tried our best to get two spots for China. (on what was learned at Worlds) Competing with so many great skaters gets the best out of us. We did much better in Stockholm than in Beijing (by ourselves). We get competitive. (on new program music) We have a few ideas. We are going to talk about them after Worlds. But we're not going to pick street dance rhythms because Western skaters are so good at this style. We're going for something more suitable for us. And slow tempo/love story-style music is not for us. We're looking for something more exciting.

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

Hurtado: (on what they've learned from this competition and the season in general)  
I think we've learned that we are stronger than we think. Coming from such a difficult year and being able to perform here was a proof to ourselves that if we put our minds to it we can do whatever we want. To experience that is a very strong proof to that. You can tell yourself "Yes, I am very strong, I am very strong!" but once you've experienced that it gives you power.

Khaliavin: (on their plans for the next season's program) If we have them it's going to be a secret. The rules are still changing; it will be clearer after Worlds.

### **Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker (USA) 2018 Four Continents Champions**

Hawayek: We felt we skated to the best of our ability today and we finished feeling very happy with our performance. We were disappointed with the scores which we don't feel reflected the skate we put out. It's hard to know what the magic recipe is that the judges are looking for. I guess in terms of what the judges were looking for today it wasn't the flavour they were looking for because we certainly skated to the best of our ability.

Baker: (On what's next for them) We have a two week quarantine getting back into Canada so we'll be at home for that. But it's really going back to the drawing board after the scores today, finding out what we can improve on. Technically I think we put out a solid performance and met all the requirements with the very strict panel here but the judges were clearly looking for something different, so we're going to make sure we get the proper feed-back and come back stronger for next season.