

QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Rhythm Dance (warm up group 5)

Marjorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha (CAN) 2019 World Junior Champions

Lajoie: (on their first worlds and the worlds in Montreal being cancelled) We are feeling really good to do our first world it's a great experience for the short dance, I'm pretty happy with what we did. (on goals for this worlds and for tomorrow) We want to do again a good performance and focus on what we need to do and skate together. There is not much expectation it's our first worlds so we just want to do a great performance.

Lagha: (on being Junior World Champions and high expectations following the great Canadian ice dance traditions) The only pressure is the one you put on yourself it's our first year but we really want to be up there and even though it's hard we'll do everything to do it. When you think about it the junior champions in seniors in first year and even first three years it's not really good because it's such a different game so no, we don't have the pressure that we are the junior champions, we skate for us, we know what to work on.

Adelina Galyavieva/Louis Thauron (FRA) 2021 National Champions

Galyavieva: For the first worlds I think it's not bad, it's not our best program because especially last week we felt that we were really ready and I think the fact that we really wanted to give absolutely everything probably put a little bit extra stress, but it wasn't so bad at the same time. (on skating without an audience) It's not bad, but personally for me it's absolutely the best part after your program to see all the public, to see many French flags, to see people clapping, someone is screaming something - that's definitely for me the feeling that I can't even express, and so the fact that this time I didn't see it, it's like someone said to me again that Santa Claus is not existing.

Thauron: (on skating to ABBA music in Sweden) We were excited to perform this program but of course it's a little bit different without an audience. I think with a full arena it would have been really nice to us and for everyone. We know how much impact it would have given. (on skating without Papadakis/Cizeron, representing France and the pressure to get Olympic spots) Sure, it is different, we have more pressure because everyone has their top teams here. Of course we know it's going to be really hard to get the spots, but it was their decision.

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

Hawayek: (On performing their high energy program in an empty arena) We adapted this program a lot knowing that we won't have an audience this season. We imagine we're back in the '70s disco club and just locked in on each other so the arena felt like a beautiful venue to be able to perform for each other. (On swapping in the "Boogie Shoes" middle section for this season) It was actually the piece we wanted to use all along but we weren't able to use it until the rules were changed for this season. This program is intended to spark joy and we felt this piece had even more of an opportunity to do that.

Baker: We did what we could in terms of performing and that's what's most important. We were really proud of our performance and that's what's in our control. We're just here to prove to everyone that we're a part of that top tier of skaters and we're going to continually push that.

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L. Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen (CAN) 2019 Cup of China bronze medalists

Fournier Beaudry: (on Sorensen's knee injury) The injury is something that was very challenging because we were actually competing with it in 2019 and achieved great results, I think it really helped us to go through the hard work we put in, we kept training in a different direction, we changed our mindset while Nikolaj couldn't be on the ice which also helped us improve.

Sorensen: (On their performance) We are so happy, so excited, so extremely grateful that we were given this chance by the ISU and the Swedish Federation. We felt really good at this event, I wake up every day and I cannot believe we are here. It was a heartfelt goodbye to the program. It is probably the last time, and it was about going out and celebrating all the hard work we've put into it and most of all celebrating that we are here today and hopefully sharing a little bit of hope with the skating community that the sport will continue. (On whether they have been through hard times with injury) I think to put it in perspective, I look at it and say there are a lot of people out there in way tougher situations than us and I think we have just been able to focus on being really grateful, especially during the pandemic without many competitions and lots of cancellations. We've had to shift our focus, so slow down at certain times and then pick it up and look at the Olympics that are coming up, which are really important to us. It was my second time going through knee surgery so I kind of knew what I was in for. It wasn't exactly the same procedure, some of it was the same but this one was a little more complicated.

Allison Reed/Saulius Ambrulevicius (LTU) National Champions

Reed: We are really happy, it was a long process getting here, I'm sure every team is going to say that but we are happy that Worlds can happen. We are really proud of the performance we put out today.

Ambrulevicius: (On their coaching situation) We actually combined it, we could train in Montreal for the past three months. We got there just before New Year's Eve. After the two weeks quarantine we started to work with the coaches and it was straight to work, there was no messing around. The whole season was hot and cold, some things were cancelled and we even couldn't skate for a month. So everything just drops and then you have to build it up again. It's a lot mental demand and physically it's harder. Before we went to Montreal we actually trained in Finland with Maurizio (Margaglio). He helped us out a lot.