

QUICK QUOTES

Pairs, Short Program (warm up groups 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Alexa Knierim/Brandon Frazier (USA), 2021 National Champions

Frazier: (On the doubling of the toe loop) It was just a fluke. Obviously it was frustrating. We're happy for all the stuff we're working on and I know I can do this no problem, so we're just going to refresh, focus in, and get it done tomorrow. (On their goal for the Free Skating) Our goal is to just put out what we've been training. We've been training really well at home and we've been working really hard since the U.S. Championships on upping the performance aspect of this free program. We're excited to show it on an international stage and looking forward to it.

Knierim: I couldn't be more proud of Brandon skating out there with me today. I know he made an unusual mistake on the toe loop. He held himself so strong (after the jump mistake) and the for rest of the program he gave it as if he nailed his (triple) jump. I'm enjoying this experience very much. It's been a little bit of a learning curve here overseas and not traveling for so long, jet lag is feeling unusual, and quarantining here a bit little different than it feels back at home. We're still learning together and understanding each other without actually saying anything.

Anastasiia Metelkina/Daniil Parkman (GEO)

Parkman: (on their international competition debut) It felt great, we did reach our goals, not all worked perfectly but we'll work on that in the future (on their connection to Georgia) I have Georgian roots, I have family in Georgia. (on teaming up recently) Some things worked on the spot, some we had to work quite hard on, but we worked a lot and hard and well, you have seen the results today.

Metelkina: (on their connection to Georgia) My uncle is Georgian who lives in Georgia.

Annika Hocke/Robert Kunkel (GER), 2020 Nebelhorn Trophy silver medalists

Hocke: We were super happy to be able to compete again. It was a blast, we enjoyed every moment. There were a few wobbles here and there, but it was our first World Championships so we are very happy that it went like this even if it wasn't 100% perfect. (On their goal for the Free Skating) Our goal is always to skate clean and show what we did in practice. We will skate our hearts out and have a lot of fun and hope the people watching on the screen will enjoy our free program as much as we do. (On competing without a live audience) It's a great arena and I think it would be super fun for people to watch (in person there) and of course we really miss the applause and encouragement during our program. We feel it (the applause through the screen); it's in our hearts. Besides, when you enter the ice, there is this huge lighting spectacle, and you begin to think, where am I going actually? You can compare it with a dress rehearsal before a show. Somehow it feels similar, you check the lights, the spots/places, but the audience is missing.

Kunkel: It was my first short program at Worlds. It was a bit wobbly at the beginning, but we did everything anyway. We skated early, because we haven't even skated together for two seasons, that explains our early starting number. (on skating without an audience) There is something missing a bit. It's a huge arena, and it gives you a boost. But during the actual skating you don't notice it. We have been skating without an audience for the whole season and gotten used to it.

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Cleo Hamon/Denys Strekalin (FRA), 2021 National Champions

Strekalin: We are really happy to be there and thanks the ISU and everyone to make that competition happen and we are happy to finally perform this year it was really complicated without the competitions and the situation, with all that happened in the world and it's good to compete again.

Hamon: (on being the new French top team) It doesn't make any difference coming as the top team it's the performance that counts. (on their program) We want to show joy and not to show a sad program, be happy in the program, it's also how we feel and we want to show that.

Evelyn Walsh/Trennt Michaud (CAN) 2020 National silver medalists

Walsh: we are really excited competing here, not just the Worlds, just any competition. Although the crowd was small it still meant something for us, we are really thankful having this opportunity.

Michaud: For sure this season was different in the different countries, like for us in Canada we didn't get any competitions due to the pandemic, so we are very, very grateful to be here. Going into worlds last year- no one thought it would be cancelled just like that so we are very grateful to any opportunity that we are given.

Zoe Jones/Christopher Boyadji (GBR)

Boyadji: (on what it took to get to Worlds): We skated for 23 days before Worlds, we have not been able to skate until February 21st and we have been off the ice for a year so we practiced for 23 days in total to prepare. It would have been great if we could have skated better, but overall, making it here was a challenge. It was not the best we could pull off here tonight, but with 23 days of practice this year, it was the best. I am not proud of the skate but the journey. I have no regrets it would be nice to go clean tonight but it was the goal - just to be.

Jones: (on the goals for the future): Hopefully we can use this experience as a platform a first stepping stone to build on for the rest of the season and for the future. We still have issues back home with the ice rinks, it's a lot to organize and just to get on the ice because of the family. We've been training 3 hours away and it has to be organized go to a different place when we get our ice rink back hopefully we can use this and build on it.

Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc (USA), 2018 Four Continents silver medalists

Cain-Gribble: (on refocusing after her fall on the side-by-side triple Salchow) We've done so many clean short programs at home so that even when the mistake happened I was able to let my training kick in. (On being ready to be called to Stockholm as first alternates) U.S. Figure Skating put a lot of events together, feedback sessions, just to keep us all going after Nationals -- including for the alternates -- so that we were able to focus that into training for something. (Goal for tomorrow's free skate) Just to fight, fight for every single point-

LeDuc: (on the positives in their performance today) To be able to come back (from a mistake) and nail something, like Ashley's throw (3Lutz). Also we really liked our levels and have been working really hard to make them consistent. We still view all this as building up to next year (Olympic season) so we really wanted to train the programs so that if we did get called we would be ready to go and, if not, we had put all that work already into next season. We're going to take that strong energy into the free skate; we've trained so hard for this, we're so grateful to be here and we want to seize this opportunity.