

QUICK QUOTES

Ladies, Short Program (warm up groups 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

Lindsay van Zundert (NED)

(On being the first skater to compete at the ISU World Championships 2021) It's my first World Championships, and I was like, wow, I can go first, and I was happy. (On her performance) It was good. My triple Lutz was also good. I'm also proud of my score, it's better than normally. (On how it felt to skate in an empty rink) It feels rare because normally there are so many people around you at competitions. I always wanted to be in a competition with many people around me, but now it's without people. It's strange. (On the preparation for this competition) I was really happy that I got my (technical minimum) points for Worlds (at the Challenge Cup competition in the Netherlands at the end of February). The weeks after the Challenge Cup I was working really hard for my programs and all my jumps, so for me it was a week of hard working. (On the goals for this competition) The first thing is that I hope I'll qualify for the free program. There I will try to do my triple-triple (combination).

Emmy Ma (TPE)

(On making her debut at the World Championships) It's more than I ever dreamed of, being on such a huge stage. I've tried to keep my mask on, stay distanced and keep sanitizing whenever I can. More than anything, I'm just grateful to be here and I'm so happy, no matter what happens. (On falling on the triple flip) When I stepped into it went a little bit too far to the left -- it just didn't go up straight -- and in the air I just kind of knew and I was like 'oh man'... that's all. (On her coach, 4-time Swedish champion and 1988 Olympian, Peter Johansson being here with her) I think he is excited about it, of course, as am I. It's just exciting that it's even happening. I like listening to him speak Swedish, it's cool. (On her family connection to Chinese Taipei) My dad is from China and my mom is from Taiwan and her whole family lives there. I went there 2 years ago in the summer for the National Championships. I can speak Chinese well, but my reading and writing skills are lacking but I'm taking classes for them in college (at Boston University).

Emilea Zingas (CYP)

(On being the first skater to represent Cyprus on World Championships)
I am very proud to represent Cyprus and to be here competing. It's a great opportunity and I am proud I made it here. My skate wasn't as good as I hoped, but I am honored to be here and represent Cyprus. My father is from Cyprus and both his parents are from Cyprus, I've been there where they come from, and I love it there, I have lots of family there. (On changing her Short Program) I have been competing with my old Short program for two and a half, almost three years. I needed a change, because it was getting old for me and I think my skating skills have improved since we made the program. So we decided to do a switch in the middle of the season to a new short program.

Hongyi Chen (CHN), 2020 Cup of China Champion

Actually after I came to Stockholm, I did not feel very well on training. I did not do my best today. And I'm not very satisfied. I planned to do 3Lz+3T. Since the triple Lutz landing was not so good, I could only do a double toe afterwards. (On the national qualification virtual competition that she won to get the Worlds spot) I did pretty well on the qualification competition. Given the Covid-19, we recorded our programs. It was kind of like live streaming. But with our teammates watching, it felt like a "real competition". (On competing at Worlds for the second time) First of all, obviously, last time in 2019 the arena was filled by the audience. This time the only audiences are coaches and skaters from other teams. Last time I competed in the World Championship, it was actually already 2 years ago, it was new for me to stand on the international competition stage. I can get so close to the skaters I admired whom I used to watch on TV. I felt like "wow, I'm also competing in the World Championship". Everything was new to me. I didn't feel like I was representing my country. I was just really grateful I could be a part of it. This time I care more about my scores and ranking. And I realized I'm not only representing myself or Chinese skaters but all the Chinese people.

Loena Hendrickx (BEL), 2021 Challenge Cup Champion

(On her comeback this season after missing most of 2019-20 due to back & ankle injuries) Last season I couldn't skate because of injury. I started in summer to prepare for this season. I was very happy to be on the ice again. To come back was an amazing feeling, (starting) with a very strong short program in Budapest (Trophy in October 2020). About my journey towards Worlds... I could skate so I was happy. But I think I could skate much better because I was really ready for Worlds. My programs went very good these last weeks, almost all of them clean, so I'm very disappointed because of my flip (fall). I couldn't get the height I think. (On her new free skate program to a Beyonce medley) I wanted to try something more mature, something more sexy because I haven't performed that style yet, so it was something new, something out of my comfort zone, and I really like it. (On her goal for the free skate) Just to enjoy again and hopefully I can show everybody I am really ready for the Worlds... and show better jumps.

Madeline Schizas (CAN), 2020 National bronze medalist

(On competing for the first time at the World Championship) This is my second senior international ever, so it was so cool to compete with the highest ranked competitors in the world. I saw some of them actually compete during the Championship in Canada back in 2015, so it's just so incredible to be here competing against the best in the world and I was really proud that I put off a good performance today. (on training during Corona in Canada) Last year when everything shut down in March we got off the ice for three months, but then we got back on the ice and we could luckily stay on the ice, so with an exception of a brief shutdown around Christmas my training has been consistent. (First Worlds, but no audience) Honestly, I think I have an advantage over a lot of competitors because at the Junior levels you don't have an audience ever. (On improving the program) I only competed once this season and that was at Skate Canada Challenge in December. I see I've got a really good program, but I'd like to improve on my performance compared to that event.

Emily Bausback (CAN), 2020 National Champion

This has been a really great experience for me. I was super excited for the training leading up to the World Championships. My very first one. And it's an incredible experience. It's everything I imagined. The theme of my short program is to love someone who people don't necessarily approve of. And I really wanted to just perform and skate just for love. Just love as a general term. I really wanted to express my smile and make everyone feel as happy as I was on the ice. Some areas I'd like to work on is definitely just calming myself down before the competition, and to relax and use my knees a bit more. And get a little out of my head. Other than that, everything else is good to go.

Josefin Taljegard (SWE)

There were a couple of people watching and clapping, so I felt support anyway. I have had so much support online before this competition, with people wishing me luck. I think because it's in Sweden, there has been more attention here in the media and everything, so people are reaching out more. I just felt so good and this ice rink is

amazing. I just had so much fun. (On how long this event has been on her mind) I have planned and have had this as my goal for at least the last four or five years. Before that I dreamt about it a lot, and now... I only got picked to skate at this competition maybe two or three weeks ago, so it has been real for just a short while. But probably since I found out that I was going to skate, it has been on my mind 24/7. It was a big relief, because I have always been the second or third at Nationals, and now it really felt like my year, and I was so happy that all the best Swedish skaters got to go to the same competition (the Challenge Cup in the Netherlands in February) and there was no question (because) I got the most points and I also got the technical (minimum) score. I was like, ok, now just focus on my next competition, which is Worlds! (On goals for this competition) First, it was just to skate like I did today, to skate clean. I got a personal best and I had so much fun, which was also a goal.

Haein Lee (KOR), 2020 World Junior Championships 5th

(On her World Championships debut) I was so nervous, and I had a hard time in Korea before I came here. But I think I did well, so I'm happy. (On the challenges of COVID on her training and how she maintained her physical condition, especially leading up to the World Championships) I think this season was really difficult for everyone. And when training, I focused on practicing in a way so as not to forget the feeling and sensation of elements such as my jumps and spins. (on her Free Skating) The music for my free program is from the Black Swan soundtrack, so I will do my best to appear and skate like a swan. And even if I am to become nervous in the free program, I hope that it'll result in a good outcome.

Karen Chen (USA), 2021 National bronze medalist

(On her new ISU personal best scoring short program performance, 7 points higher than her previous personal best at 2020 Four Continents) I'm really happy with my performance. Coming here, I felt a lot of pressure and I haven't been to Worlds in such a long time and I've definitely been struggling in the past with injuries and what not. But to be here and skate a really solid short program is such a great confidence booster for me and I'm really happy to keep that momentum onto the free skate. (On how she has grown as a person and skater since 2017 Worlds) I definitely feel like I'm a totally different person and skater. I feel like I grew a lot when I was at college (she started her freshman year at Cornell in 2019) -- just being on campus and being around other students gave me perspective in life. It also made me realize how much I love skating -- I'm addicted to skating and it's something I truly love. I know that, as I get older, it's definitely going to be more challenging, and now is the time to pursue my skating goals. I just have a better grasp and a better perspective on my life and my goals and it's really helping me with my training and my consistency.

Mae-Berenice Meite (FRA), Five-time National Champion

Withdrawn due to injury sustained in the Short Program.

Comment from Mae-Berenice Meite after the competition:

I want to thank everyone for their support and kind messages. Mentally I feel good. I don't have a final diagnosis yet, but the doctors suspect an achilles tendon rupture. I plan to return to France tomorrow for treatment. I want to come back strong.