

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2015 Day Three

The ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2015 continued in Tallinn, Estonia, on Friday with the Junior Men's Short Program and the Ladies Free Skating.

Shoma Uno (JPN) leads Junior Men's after Short Program

Shoma Uno of Japan took a strong lead in the Junior Men's Short Program. Russia's Adian Pitkeev and Alexander Petrov follow in second and third place.

Performing to "Violin Sonata No. 9" by Ludwig van Beethoven, Uno landed a triple Axel, a triple Lutz as well as a triple flip-triple toe combination. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion earned a level four for the three spins and the footwork to score 84.87 points. "I think I achieved one of my best performances in the short program and I hope to do the same tomorrow in the free skating", the 17-year-old said.

Pitkeev opened his program to "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" by Andrew Lloyd Webber with a triple Lutz and followed up with a triple Axel and triple loop-triple toeloop combination. Two spins and the footwork merited a level four, but the reigning World Junior silver medalist struggled with his flying camel spin. He netted 76.94 points, a seasons best. "I feel good about my performance, because I did everything except for the final spin. For the free skating, I want to skate clean", the 16-year-old noted.

Petrov's routine to "Conquistador" by Maxime Rodriguez included a triple Axel, triple flip-triple toe, triple Lutz as well as two level-four spins. The ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalist picked up 75.28 points. "Obviously there were some mistakes and I hope I can fix them for tomorrow, but overall it wasn't bad", the skater from St. Petersburg commented.

Jin Seo Kim (KOR) in fourth place (74.43 points) and Boyang Jin (CHN) in fifth (72.85 points) remain close to the podium. Alexander Samarin (RUS) rounds up the top six (70.61 points). 40 Men competed in the Short Program and the top 24 qualified for the Free Skating.

Evgenia Medvedeva (RUS) takes Junior Ladies crown

Evgenia Medvedeva of Russia took the Junior Ladies crown while her teammate Serafima Sakhanovich repeated as silver medalist. Japan's Wakaba Higuchi claimed the bronze medal in her debut at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships.

Medvedeva reeled off a triple flip-triple toe, triple Salchow-triple toe as well as three more triple jumps, two double Axels and level-four spins and footwork in her routine to "Summer Nights Dream" and "Tango Chak". The 2014 World Junior bronze medalist posted a new personal best with 124.49 points and racked up a total of 192.97 points to take the title. "I am satisfied with my skate. I made some minor mistakes on many jumps, but it didn't hurt my score. I just tried to go out and skate well, and some things weren't so good, but everything is good that ends well", the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion said.

Sakhanovich's program to "I Love You I Hate You" featured seven triple jumps as well, including a triple flip-triple toe and triple Salchow-triple toe-double toe combination plus difficult spins and footwork. The

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ISU Grand Prix Final silver medalist was ranked third in the Free Skating with 123.06 points but overall remained in second place with a total of 186.15 points. "I think I skated well. I enjoyed how I skated and I had a blast out there", the 15-year-old told the press.

Skating to "Piano Concerto in F" by George Gershwin, Higuchi landed a triple Lutz-triple toe as well as five more triple jumps and three level-four spins to earn a personal best of 124.30 points. She finished second in the Free Skating and third overall with 185.57 points. "In this competition I did quite well from the beginning to the end. I was nervous, but under this pressure I did what I had to do", the 14-year-old Japanese Junior Champion explained.

Elizabet Tursynbaeva (KAZ) pulled up from seventh to fourth at 173.44 points. Maria Sotskova (RUS) moved up from tenth to fifth (169.04 points) while Kaori Sakamoto (JPN) slipped from fourth to sixth (166.25 points).

The ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2015 continue Saturday with the Junior Free Dance and the Junior Men's Free Skating. For more information, full entry lists and results please see: www.isu.org and <http://www.jwskate2015.eu/>

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