



Press release

19 November 2017

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18: Internationaux de France Day Two

Two-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA) triumphed on home ice and recorded a personal best while [Alina Zagitova](#) (RUS) came from behind to strike gold as the competition wrapped up at the Internationaux de France de Patinage in Grenoble Saturday. [Javier Fernandez](#) (ESP) redeemed himself with a victory, and European Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS) topped the Pairs podium.

Zagitova (RUS) vaults to second Grand Prix gold, qualifies for Grand Prix Final

2017 World Junior Champion [Alina Zagitova](#), of Russia, continued her impressive senior-level debut this season. Coming from fifth place the teenager jumped up the placings to top the podium at the Internationaux de France de Patinage. Her teammate [Maria Sotskova](#) (RUS) completed a one-two finish for the Russian Ladies while overnight leader [Kaetlyn Osmond](#), of Canada, had to settle for bronze.

Zagitova put out a precise performance to ‘Don Quixote’, reeling off a triple Lutz-triple loop combination, double Axel-triple toe as well as four more triples and level-four spins and footwork. The 2017 World Junior Champion posted a personal best of 151.34 points and racked up 213.80 points overall to vault to first place. “I am not very pleased with my Short Program, because not everything worked out, but I am pleased with the Free Skating, because I did everything to the maximum,” Zagitova said. “The Short Program was on a different day, today was new day, I started from scratch and tried to go out with a cool head,” the 15-year-old added.

Sotskova’s performance to ‘Claire de Lune’ by Claude Debussy included a triple Lutz-triple toe combination, five more triple jumps as well as two double Axels and difficult steps and spins. The 2016 World Junior silver medalist picked up a personal best of 140.99 points for a total of 208.78 points. “Today I am pleased to have skated a clean long program and that I was able to cope with my nerves. It was not the maximum of what I can do, but it was a consistent performance and from there I just want to improve,” the Skate Canada silver medalist commented.

Osmond’s ‘Black Swan’ routine was highlighted by five clean triple jumps, but she fell on a triple loop and singled an Axel. The World silver medalist scored 137.72 points which added up to 206.77 points overall. She slipped from first place to third. “It wasn’t great. I made a few mistakes, but overall I felt like I skated a strong program and the things that I’ve done I’ve done at the best I could do,” the Canadian Champion said. “(In the Grand Prix Final) I mainly want to improve on my performances here, skate a clean short and to improve my long program, make it cleaner.”



INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL media@isu.ch

Zagitova qualifies with two gold medals from China and France for her first senior-level Grand Prix Final. She is the current ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion. Sotskova has a good chance to return to the Final with her silver medals from Skate Canada and Internationaux de France. Osmond advances with a gold and a bronze medal from her two events.

2017 Four Continents Champion [Mai Mihara](#) (JPN) remained in fourth place at 202.12 points. [Elizabet Tursynbaeva](#) (KAZ) pulled up from sixth to fifth and was ranked third in the Free Skating (200.98 points). [Yuna Shiraiwa](#) (JPN) dropped from third to sixth after falling on a triple loop (193.18 points).

Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA) dance off with gold and new record score in Grenoble

Two-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#), of France, won their home Grand Prix in style, recording a personal best. [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) claimed the silver medal and the bronze went to Russia's [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#).

Papadakis/Cizeron impressed once more in their Free Dance to 'Moonlight Sonata', executing difficult footwork and twizzles as well as beautiful lifts. The three-time European Champions collected a level four for all elements except the midline step sequence that was a level three and set a new highest score in the Free Dance with 120.58 points as well as overall with 201.98, to break their own record from the Audi Cup of China. The couple earned a total of 21 perfect 10.00 in the component scores. "We are very happy with our scores. We had a very clean program," Cizeron said. "We are very happy with the improvements we've made. The scores give us confidence, but not necessarily in relation to other competitors because it is difficult to compare different events."

Chock/Bates' dance to 'Imagine' by John Lennon featured excellent lifts and level-three footwork. However, Bates wobbled on the twizzles. The 2015 World silver medalists scored 108.30 points and totalled 181.85 points. "We felt great skating this evening," Chock said. "This is one of our favorite programs that we ever had. Every time we perform it, it is definitely something special for us. We know it has a lot of room to grow and we did leave some points on the table, technically. We're going home and really work on our elements and keep growing this program, because it can be something really, really special for us."

Dancing to 'Liebestraum', Stepanova/Bukin produced four level-four elements including their trademark twizzle sequence. The national silver medalists earned 107.22 points and were ranked fourth in the Free Dance, but overall held on to third place at 177.24 points, taking their second bronze medal on the Grand Prix circuit this season. "We were pleased when our coaches told us that we skated with our soul, which means a lot to us. We're extremely pleased to have taken third place again in our second Grand Prix," Stepanova told the press conference.

[Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje](#) (CAN) delivered a strong Free Dance to 'Je suis malade', although Weaver had displaced her rib recently. On 176.97 points, they were edged out of the podium places by



INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL media@isu.ch

just 0.27 points and came fourth. [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#) (ITA) placed fifth with a dance to 'Exogenesis Symphony' (171.01 points) and [Angelique Abachkina/Louis Thauron](#) (FRA) pulled up from eighth to sixth place on 155.55 points.

Papadakis/Cizeron proceed to the Grand Prix Final with two gold medals and top the standings. Chock/Bates qualify with two silver medals.

Tarasova/Morozov (RUS) capture second Grand Prix gold at Internationaux de France

European Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#), of Russia, captured their second Grand Prix Pairs gold medal this season at the Internationaux de France de Patinage.

Home-crowd favorites [Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#), of France, won the Free Skating but took silver overall. Italy's [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) claimed the bronze, their first medal on the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating.

Tarasova/Morozov opened their boogie-woogie program to 'Candyman' and 'Naughty Naughty Boy' with a quadruple twist followed by a solid side-by-side triple Salchow and a throw triple Salchow. However, Tarasova then singled the toeloop in their jump combination and two-footed the throw triple loop. The World bronze medalists scored 140.36 points and were ranked second in the Free Skating, but overall held on to first place on 218.20 points. "It was not our best performance, we made one-and-a-half mistakes," Morozov told the post-event press conference. "We lost concentration for the second jump and missed it. Overall, I think this program was better and we'll keep in mind what we need to do better."

Skating to 'Say Something', James/Cipres produced a triple twist, triple toe-double toe-double toe combination and triple Salchow, as well as a throw triple Lutz and strong lifts. James landed the throw quadruple Salchow on two feet, but that was the only glitch in the otherwise-smooth routine. The European bronze medalists picked up 141.14 points for 214.32 points overall. "It was amazing to skate at home," Cipres said. "It was not easy because they pushed a lot before we skated and we were nervous. Again we missed some points on the levels, but we will work on this."

Della Monica/Guarise's program to the 'Tree Of Life Suite' featured a triple Salchow, triple twist and level-four lifts and spins, but Guarise popped the toeloop into a double and stumbled. The Italian Champions earned 126.94 points for the Free Skating and totaled 197.59 points. "It was a hard competition, I felt the tension in the long program, my legs were shaking from the beginning," Guarise said. "But we finished with a smile. This is our first medal in the Grand Prix and we need to be happy with that."

[Liubov Ilyushechkina/Dylan Moscovitch](#) (CAN) remained in fourth place on 193.07 points and [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) (CHN) came fifth (188.14 points).



INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL media@isu.ch

Tarasova/Morozov, the defending ISU Grand Prix Final Champions, booked their ticket to Nagoya, Japan for this season's Final with two victories on the circuit. James/Cipres will have to wait and see if a second and third place is enough to qualify them for the Final for the first time.

Fernandez (ESP) claims seventh Grand Prix gold medal of his career

Two-time World Champion [Javier Fernandez](#), of Spain, claimed the seventh Grand Prix gold medal of his long and distinguished career. Japan's World silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#) earned the silver medal and Uzbekistan's [Misha Ge](#) took the bronze, his first Grand Prix medal.

Performing to 'Man of La Mancha', Fernandez landed a quad toe, quad Salchow-double toe and a triple Lutz as well as level-four spins and footwork. However, the five-time European Champion fell on a quad Salchow and a triple Axel. Fernandez scored 175.85 points and was ranked second in the Free Skating, but remained on top overall with 283.71 points.

"It was not quite the best Free Program, more than one big mistake," Fernandez said. "But I think it was still a better Grand Prix than my last one, which is an improvement. Still, there is a bigger improvement to do. We go back to training, work harder and try to do a better Free Program in the upcoming competitions.

"It was a long day for me. We trained early, then we had to wait many hours until the night. I started well into the program but I hurt my hip a little on the first Axel. When the program goes down, you start to get tired and when you get tired, you make more mistakes."

Uno's program to 'Turandot' included a quad loop and two triple Axels as well as difficult spins and footwork, but he missed an under-rotated quad flip and a triple flip. The 19-year-old won the Free Skating with 179.40 points but was not able to catch Fernandez, who had a strong lead after the Short Program. Uno totaled 273.32 points.

"It was really tough for me, but compared to the Short Program I felt better," said Uno, who won the bronze medal at last season's ISU Grand Prix. "I guess I can motivate myself and practice more and more for the upcoming competitions. Since it (the Final) is in my home town, a lot of people are expecting a lot from me, but my main goal is to do my own skating."

Ge turned in an inspiring and flawless performance to 'Meditation' by Jules Massenet, completing eight clean triple jumps as well as intricate footwork. The 26-year-old posted a personal-best score of 172.93 points and accumulated 258.34 points overall to win the first Grand Prix medal for a male skater from Uzbekistan. Tatiana Malinina had won the last Grand Prix medal for Uzbekistan in 2001.

"The few weeks after the Cup of Russia (Rostelecom Cup) were tough through training and documents. I guess most people know that I got my visa (for France) just a few hours before my



INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL media@isu.ch

flight,” Ge said. “I am glad that through all those difficulties we were able to pull out two good skates and were able to get a personal best and improve in many small aspects.

“Really, at my last Grand Prix to get a medal is unbelievable.” Ge has announced that he will retire after this season.

[Alexander Samarin](#) (RUS) slipped from third to fourth (253.13 points). [Alexei Bychenko](#) (ISR) placed fifth on 247.44 points and [Moris Kvitelashvili](#) (GEO) completed the top six (240.50 points).

With a first and a sixth place from his two events, Fernandez’s chances to make the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final are rather slim. Uno qualifies easily with his gold from Skate Canada and his silver from Internationaux de France de Patinage.

The Internationaux de France de Patinage conclude Sunday with the Exhibition Gala. The Internationaux de France de Patinage was the fifth of six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2017/18. A total of 58 skaters/couples from 15 ISU members competed in France. The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series continues next week in Lake Placid (USA) with Bridgestone Skate America.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events and culminates in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya (JPN) in December. The top six skaters/couples in each discipline qualify for the Final. The global prize money for the Grand Prix is US\$272,000.

Full entry lists and results of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2017/18 are available [here](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#GPFigure #FigureSkating**.

For further information please contact:

Selina Vanier
ISU Communications Coordinator
media@isu.ch
Tel: +41 21 612 66 66