



Press release

18 March 2018

De Jong dethrones absent Sáblíková

Antoinette de Jong (NED) has ended the eleven-year reign of Martina Sáblíková (CZE) in the ladies' long distance World Cup winning the day's race and the classification at the final in Minsk on Saturday. Karolina Erbanova (CZE) won the 500m, and Marrit Leenstra (NED) took gold in the 1000m, with Miho Takagi (JPN) coming fourth to take an unassailable lead in the Grand World Cup standings.

De Jong concludes in style

In absence of the injury plagued Sáblíková, Antoinette de Jong beat World Cup leader Ivanie Blondin (CAN), and Natalia Voronina (RUS), who also was ahead of her in the rankings before the final 3000m race. De Jong finished in 4:08.85, with Marina Zueva (BLR) coming second in 4:11.63 and Blondin third in 4:11.77. It left Blondin six points short of De Jong for the overall win in the long distance World Cup.

Erbanova closes in on absent Kodaira

Erbanova took pole position to win the 500m World Cup, with a close win over Vanessa Herzog (AUT) on Saturday. The Czech European Sprint Champion skated 38.28, to finish 0.01 ahead of her Austrian rival. Russian Angelina Golikova came third in 38.40. Erbanova collected 696 World Cup points, just four shy of Nao Kodaira, but the Japanese Olympic Champion, who is unbeaten in this season's 500m, did not travel to Minsk due to illness. There's one more race to go on Sunday.

Leenstra wins race, Shikhova World Cup

Marrit Leenstra (NED) took her career second 1000m World Cup win, finishing in 1:15.82. Norway's Hege Bøkko came second in 1:16.03 and Yekaterina Shikhova secured the season's 1000m World Cup coming third in 1:16.73. Miho Takagi came fourth in 1:16.82 and collected enough points to secure the Grand World Cup victory.

Japanese ladies confirm dominance in Team Pursuit

Takagi also celebrated the third consecutive Japanese season's World Cup win in the ladies' Team Pursuit. The Olympic Champions, who broke the Team Pursuit world record three times this season, won the event confidently in 3:00.18, with a 5.03 lead over the Netherlands, who finished second. Germany came third in 3:08.56. Germany came second in the season's World Cup and the Netherlands third.

Full [results and classifications](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using [#WCSPeedsKating](#) and [#SpeedSkating](#) and watch the live stream on the [ISU Skating Channel](#).

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About ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2017/18 Series

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating is a series of international Speed Skating competitions which takes place annually. The Series started in 1984 and usually consists of six or seven events including the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final. Skaters can earn points at each competition, and the skater who has the most points on a given distance at the end of the series is the World Cup winner of that distance. Skaters also cumulate Grand World Cup points each time they compete in a distance. During the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final, the Lady and the Man with the most Grand World Cup points is crowned the Grand World Cup winner.

The results on the individual distances in the World Cup ranking are the main qualifying method for the ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships.

A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season, for Men: 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, combined 5000 m / 10000 m, Team Pursuit, Mass Start and Team Sprint. For Ladies 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, the combined 3000 m / 5000 m, Team Pursuit, Mass Start and Team Sprint.