

December 9, 2018

Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Poland

## **Netherlands secure Team Sprint World Cup**

The Netherlands secured the Men's Team Sprint World Cup after coming second to Norway in the last race of the season in Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Poland, on Sunday. Russia won the Ladies' Team Sprint World Cup after finishing second to Japan in Sunday's race. There was further success for Dutch skaters as Marcel Bosker won the Men's 10,000m and Esmee Visser claimed the Ladies' 5000m.

### **Norway win Team Sprint as Netherlands seal World Cup title**

Norway's men won gold in the Team Sprint for the first time this season as the Netherlands did enough to secure top spot in the overall rankings.

The Norwegians, fourth in the rankings after two races, took on third-placed Canada in the fourth pairing. Their line-up of [Bjørn Magnussen](#), [Henrik Fagerli Rukke](#) and Olympic 500m Champion [Håvard Lorentzen](#) clocked 1:21.27.

The Netherlands ([Michel Mulder](#), [Dai Dai Ntab](#), [Kai Verbij](#)) took silver in 1:21.43 and Russia ([Ruslan Murashov](#), [Alexey Yesin](#), [Viktor Mushtakov](#)) grabbed the bronze medal in 1:21.74.

The Canada team of [Alex Boisvert-Lacroix](#), [Gilmore Junio](#) and [Laurent Dubreuil](#) finished last after [Boisvert-Lacroix](#) crashed, but the Norwegians were not affected.

"I saw one of the guys lying down when we were in our second lap", Rukke said.

Lorentzen added: "It's a little bit scary when he's lying there - we could also crash. But I wasn't being more cautious because I did the last turn and my legs were blown up (in pain), so I was just hanging in there."

The Netherlands, who won the first race in Obihiro and came second twice, took home the overall Team Sprint World Cup with 336 points. Norway (304) came second and Russia (296) third.

### **Bosker (NED) edges out Russians in 10,000m**

[Marcel Bosker](#) won the Men's 10,000m without skating the fastest time of the day. His compatriot [Jorrit Bergsma](#), who started in the B Division because he did not attend the first two World Cups, had already clocked a track record of 13:14.95 in the morning.

Bosker, skating without the advantage of the B Division quartet start, set 13:25.27 to take gold in the A Division. Russians [Aleksandr Rumyantsev](#) and [Danila Semerikov](#) came second and third in 13:26.76 and 13:28.71.

Bosker skated after Semerikov and was trailing his Russian rival for most of the race. He was still 2.47 seconds behind at the 9600m split, but in that final part of the race a tiring Semerikov had posted 37.5 for the last lap. Bosker managed to accelerate into a 31.6 final lap to overtake the Russian. Rumyantsev, who skated after Bosker, was also ahead of the Dutchman's split times for most of the race but faded in the final laps.

"I did not want to look at what the others did, I just wanted to skate a steady race by myself," Bosker said.

"I was aiming for 13:30 with 32.4 lap times - that's something I've done before. I was able to accelerate towards the end, which was nice, and I knew I could beat the Russian (Semerikov) because he had a bad final lap.

"This (gold medal) is very good. I had not expected it because the 10,000m is not my distance. I just wanted to collect enough points to be able to start in the A Division in the 5000m in Heerenveen (next week)."

Bosker climbed to second place in the long distance World Cup ranking with 137 points. In the absence of previous World Cup leader [Patrick Roest](#) (NED), Rumyantsev took over the top position with 144 points. [Sverre Lunde Pedersen](#) (NOR), who finished fifth in Tomaszów Mazowiecki, is third with 134 points.

### **Visser returns to form in 5000m**

Olympic 5000m champion [Esmee Visser](#) (NED) showed her class in Tomaszów Mazowiecki on Sunday and put last month's disappointing display on the outdoor track of Tomakomai behind her.

The Dutch skater stepped onto the ice after two-time Olympic 5000m champion [Martina Sáblíková](#) (CZE) had set a track record of 7:11.26. Visser started more cautiously than her Czech rival but managed to keep her lap times under 34 seconds until the 3400m split, whereas Sáblíková's lap times went up to over 34 seconds from the 2200m split.

Visser also had difficulties maintaining speed in the final laps but her finish time of 7:05.18 was good enough for gold. Sáblíková had to settle for fifth place.

[Isabelle Weidemann](#) (CAN), a surprise winner of her first career World Cup gold in the Tomakomai 3000m, skated faster in the final laps, but she was too far back to beat Visser's time. The Canadian ended up in silver medal position on 7:06.19. [Natalya Voronina](#) (RUS) took bronze in 7:08.68.

After her Tomakomai setback, World Cup newcomer Visser was happy to be back on an indoor rink.

"For me it's hard to accelerate fast. Being pushed back by the wind every lap, (in Tomakomai) I had to gain speed time and again. For me as a lightweight, it's harder than for most others. Tomakomai was an anomaly, this (indoor rink at Tomaszów Mazowiecki) is the way it should be," the 22-year-old said.

"This is my career first World Cup series. I have to get used to everything: the pressure, the travelling. My trainers told me to look at this as a mere training race, but I still felt some pressure. People expect me to be on the podium, so I'm relieved that I managed to pull it off. Looking back at my race, I think there's room for improvement, but overall I'm satisfied."

Visser climbed back to the top of the long distance World Cup ranking. She has collected 149 points in the first three races. Weidemann is second with 146 points and Voronina lies third with 145 points.

### **Takagi gives Japan spectacular finish in Team Sprint**

Skating without Olympic 500m Champion Nao Kodaira, Japan grabbed their first World Cup gold in the last Team Sprint race of the season. [Konami Soga](#), [Ayano Sato](#) and [Miho Takagi](#) finished the three laps in 1:27.82.

However, the overall Team Sprint World Cup title went to Russia. [Olga Fatkulina](#), [Angelina Golikova](#) and [Yekaterina Shikhova](#) secured top spot by coming second in 1:28.18, one place ahead of the Netherlands ([Femke Beuling](#), [Letitia de Jong](#) and [Ireen Wüst](#)).

Middle distance specialist Miho Takagi was on last lap duty for Japan, despite not normally skating the Team Sprint.

"I've done it before, but that must have been about four years ago. I was a bit nervous about how to skate, but the girls in front of me skated very well and I felt I still had fresh legs going into the final lap," she said.

"I had to skate three laps with much higher speed (than I'm used to). I think I can make use of this experience for the 1000m, 1500m and Team Pursuit."

Russia won the Team Sprint World Cup with 314 points, ahead of the Netherlands (312 points) and Japan (308 points).

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating series will resume with the fourth leg in Heerenveen, the Netherlands on 14-16 December.

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series please visit: [isu.org/speed-skating](https://isu.org/speed-skating). Results are [here](#) and you can follow the discussion on social media by using #WCSpeedSkating and #SpeedSkating.

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series will be available on in some countries on the ISU Skating Channel.

#### **About ISU World Cup Speed Skating 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. The World Cup Competitions held from November to December serve as qualifying events for entry quotas at the ISU European, World Single Distances, World Sprint and World Allround Speed Skating Championships. A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season; For Men: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, combined 5000m / 10,000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For Ladies 500m, 1000m, 1500m, the combined 3000m / 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For further information please visit [isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating](https://isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating).