

January 24, 2019

Minsk, Belarus

## **ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2019**

### **Day Two**

Pair Skaters [Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#) of France were the first Champions crowned at the ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2019 in Minsk, Belarus, Thursday, when the event continued with the Men's Short Program and the Pairs Free Skating. [Mikhail Kolyada](#) (RUS) grabbed the lead in the Men's Short Program.

#### **Mikhail Kolyada (RUS) takes Men's Short Program**

[Mikhail Kolyada](#) of Russia took the lead in the Men's Short Program as the ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2019 continued in Minsk (BLR) on Thursday with the Men's Short Program. [Alexander Samarin](#), also from Russia, edged out Spain's six-time and reigning European Champion [Javier Fernandez](#) to come second.

Kolyada opened his performance to "I Belong to You" by Muse with a quad toe-triple toe combination and followed up with a triple Lutz and triple Axel. The 2018 World bronze medalist picked up a level four for his exquisite spins and footwork to post a season's best of 100.49 points. "It is important now not to let out the emotions, I need to keep them for the free. It was a good performance, not without small mistakes, though," the two-time European bronze medalist said. "It is definitely easier to skate when you're healthy. At this point, I am pleased with what I've done today," he added.

Samarin's program to "Cold Blood" by Dave Not Dave featured a big quadruple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, a triple Axel and level-four spins. However, the National bronze medalist stepped out of a triple flip and his step sequence was graded a level two. The Muscovite picked up a season's best score of 91.97 points. "I'm quite satisfied but I wanted to show more. It seems today is not the right day.," the 20-year-old noted. "I was going for the quad flip, but I think I didn't have enough experience with it in competition. It was the very first attempt."

Fernandez hit a quad toe-double toeloop combination, triple Axel and got a level-four for his spins, but the quadruple Salchow was called underrotated. The Olympic bronze medalist scored 91.84 points. "I think the program was great. The jumps were good even though the judges didn't think so. I trained for three weeks hard in Toronto," the two-time World Champion commented. "I wanted to do the Europeans as my last competition. The Europeans is more my house. It's time for the next step in my life. 21 years (of skating) 13 European Championships, six titles. In the free, nine points is nothing," he continued.

[Kevin Aymoz](#) (FRA) turned in a solid performance that featured a quad toeloop to finish fourth on 88.02 points. [Maxim Kovtun](#) (RUS) landed quad toe-triple toe, but fell on the quad Salchow. He currently ranks fifth on 87.70 points. [Daniel Samohin](#) (ISR) rounds up the top six (86.48 points).

#### **James/Cipres win first Pairs European gold for France since 1932**

[Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#) struck gold, becoming the first European Pair Skating Champions from France since 1932 as the ISU European Figure Skating Championships continued Thursday with the Pairs Free Skating in Minsk (BLR). Defending champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) of Russia settled for the silver this time while Russian newcomers [Aleksandra](#)

[Boikova/Dmitri Kozlovskii](#) captured the bronze medal in their debut at the ISU European Figure Skating Championships.

James/Cipres put out an emotional performance to “Wicked Game” and “The Last Feeling”, opening with a triple twist, triple toe-double toe-double toe-double toe combination and triple Salchow and following up with difficult lifts, a throw triple flip and throw triple Salchow. The World bronze medalists earned a level four for the lifts and the pair spin. The French Champions scored 149.11 points for the Free Skating and totaled 225.66 points to take the title.

“It is a dream come true. We’ve dreamt of that forever. I am so happy and proud, I can’t even find words to express how much,” James shared. “We sacrificed so much and did so many efforts. It was a dream when we were children to be here one day. It’s a moment of joy that I really want to share with the whole team, the federation, my family and my friends. We finally made history and we’re so proud. We’ll keep going to hopefully win more titles,” Cipres said.

Skating to “Winter”, Tarasova/Morozov completed a huge triple twist, side by side triple toeloop, throw triple loop and Salchow as well as level-four spins and footwork. The only glitch came when Tarasova, like in the Short Program, landed forward on the side by side triple toe that was downgraded. The World silver medalists achieved a new season’s best with 144.92 points and racked up 218.82 points overall. “We are obviously very disappointed by this defeat, by losing the gold medal. Like yesterday the whole skate was good except one jump element (the combination). We gave it away ourselves today,” Morozov told the press.

Boikova/Kozlovskii’s program to “The Nutcracker” by Petr Tchaikovski was highlighted by a side by side triple Salchow, triple twist, throw triple Salchow and loop. However, Kozlovskii stumbled on the side by side triple toeloop and failed to complete the combination. The team from Saint Petersburg, at 17 and 19 the youngest Pair in the event, nevertheless managed a season’s best with 132.70 points for the Free Skating. With 205.28 points overall the 2017 World Junior silver medalists moved up from fourth to third to snatch the bronze. “It’s a miracle. Fate has forgiven me today - it gave me a scare and then it has saved me. It is truly a miracle,” Kozlovskii commented. “It’s no secret I made a mistake, people will have noticed of course, and I don’t know why I did it. It was unexpected and inexplicable, but we will learn a lesson from it and move on,” he continued.

[Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) (ITA) made a few little errors to slip to fourth place, edged out of the podium by just 0.14 points (205.14 points). 2018 World Junior Champions [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) (RUS) remained in fifth place on 185.92 points followed by [Minerva Fabienne Hase/Nolan Seegert](#) (GER) on 180.56 points.

[Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer](#) (AUT), who stood in 7<sup>th</sup> place following the Short Program, withdrew from the competition citing emotional distress.

The competition continues Friday with the Rhythm Dance and Ladies Free Skating. For more information, full entry lists and results please see: [www.isu.org](http://www.isu.org) and the [official event website](#). Follow the discussion on social media using #EuroFigure and #FigureSkating.

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