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Salt Lake City, USA

Avalanche of world records in Salt Lake City

The Utah Olympic Oval lived up to its reputation as the fastest ice in the world on Saturday. With the World Cup coming to a climax, [Pavel Kulizhnikov](#) (RUS) and [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) crushed the 500m and 1000m world records. Patrick Roest (NED) won the men's 5000m with a personal best, while Russia's [Aleksandr Rumyantsev](#) clinched the long distance World Cup in dramatic fashion.

In the ladies' tournament [Martina Sáblíková](#) (CZE) ended the season with yet another world record to win the 3000m. [Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) also clocked a world record in the 1000m on home ice. Nao Kodaira (JPN) won the season's penultimate 500m, but fell 0.11s short of the world record.

Kulizhnikov defies final inner corner

[Tatsuya Shinhama](#) (JPN) was the first to break a world record on Saturday. In the fourth of six pairings, the 22-year-old Japanese sprinter was not distracted by a false start by compatriot [Ryohei Haga](#). Shinhama opened in 9.50 seconds, adding a 24.3 full lap to finish in 33.83 seconds, 0.15 seconds faster than Kulizhnikov's 2015 mark.

The Russian himself was not happy about the draw, because he had to start in the outer lane. Going into the second inner lane at top speed in the 500m is one of the hardest things in Speed Skating. Kulizhnikov defied his own fear and went full throttle. "I was upset about having drawn the outer lane," he said. "But I just told myself to skate as fast as possible into that final inner corner and I managed to stay low and close to the ice."

After a 9.67s opener in the final pairing, Kulizhnikov skated an unmatched 23.9s full lap with a spotless final inner corner to clock 33.61s.

"I surprised myself," he said. "It was a rollercoaster of emotions, first to see my world record being broken and then to set a new record myself."

Shinhama ended up second and his compatriot [Yuma Murakami](#), who had set the fastest opener in 9.46s, took third place in 34.11s.

With the final 500m race on Sunday yet to come, Kulizhnikov leads the ranking, with Shinhama 98 points behind in second.

Nuis sets 'world record in 1100m'

In the men's 1000m Kulizhnikov again started in the final pairing. This time he saw not one but three men beat the world record in the distance. In a far from perfect race, [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) hammered out 1:06.18 to beat the ten-year-old 1:06.42 world record set by Shani Davis (USA).

"I did not believe it when I crossed the line," Nuis said. "I thought I read 1:06.81 on the scoreboard and I was angry, only to see that it was 1:06.18 two hundred meters past the finish line."

The Olympic 1000m Champion swerved out of the inner corner heading into the second lap of his race.

"My opener was good but then I skated a very bad second lap. I was chasing him (his pairmate [Håvard Lorentzen](#), NOR) on the backstretch and I did not focus on the corner. At this speed that corner suddenly comes up and I did not managed to bend it smoothly.

"When I take that corner well, I might have clocked a 24.1 lap instead of the 24.3 lap I did. I think that a sub-1:06 time is possible. This is a world record over 1100 meters", Nuis concluded with a joke.

After Nuis his compatriot and teammate [Thomas Krol](#) (NED) also managed to stay under Shani Davis' previous world record, clocking 1:06.25 to eventually end up in second place.

In the final pairing, Kulizhnikov started versus world 1000m Champion [Kai Verbij](#) (NED). The Russian was faster than Nuis at the 600m split, but couldn't maintain his pace in the final lap, stopping the clock at 1:06.47. Verbij passed the Russian in the final inner corner to complete an all-Dutch podium in the distance. With 1:06.34 he was the third man to skate faster than the ten-year-old world record.

With his win, Nuis secured the distance World Cup, ahead of Verbij and Kulizhnikov.

Roest wins 5000m, Romyantsev takes World Cup

Fresh Allround World Champion [Patrick Roest](#) (NED) won the 5000m on Saturday, just missing out on the Dutch national record in 6:03.70 on his first visit to the Utah Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City. "I'm happy to have shaved five seconds off my personal best," Roest said. "After last weekend [the World Allround Championships in Calgary, Canada] I was still a bit tired and I started at the pace of my own personal best. To miss out on the national record is a pity but it's a personal best and this was all I had today."

[Sverre Lunde Pedersen](#) (NOR) went into his race leading the World Cup rankings just one point ahead of [Aleksandr Romyantsev](#) (RUS). The Norwegian started at Roest's pace but was not able to keep it up and eventually dropped to fifth place in 6:10.98. He thus lost the World Cup by only a 0.20 margin, with Romyantsev coming fourth in 6:10.78.

Pedersen believed that he might have skated faster had he not started too quickly. "But I always go for the win," he said. "Unfortunately I soon felt that it was not possible. Maybe I should have started slower, but that's always easy in hindsight."

Pedersen eventually ended up third in the final long distance World Cup. [Marcel Bosker](#) (NED) finished second in 6:08.90 and also passed Pedersen in the ranking. World record holder [Ted-Jan Bloemen](#) (CAN) finished third in 6:09.64 on Saturday.

Tough two final laps of the season for Sábliková

Martina Sábliková (CZE) started the 3000m in the final pairing versus [Isabelle Weidemann](#) (CAN). [Esmee Visser](#) (NED) and [Natalya Voronina](#) (RUS) were in first and second place, both having set new national records with 3:54.02 and 3:54.06 respectively.

"When I saw those times I thought it would be hard to beat," Sábliková said. "I did not feel very well the last days, I was very tired. But in the locker room my teammates said: 'It's the last seven-and-a-

half laps of the season.' That's how I found the motivation to try and give it my all once more. I started faster than I ever skated before and I did not think I could keep it up. The final two laps were very hard, but I said to myself: 'It's the last two laps of the season.' That's how I managed to pull it off."

Visser and Voronina had to settle for second and third place. With her win Sáblíková sealed the long distance World Cup, with Visser and Voronina again coming second and third.

'Close-to-perfect race' for Bowe

Japan's [Miho Takagi](#) and [Nao Kodaira](#) set the pace in the Ladies' 1000m. Both were faster than Kodaira's 2017 world record of 1:12.09. Takagi had the final inner corner and chased Kodaira down to stop the clock at 1:11.71. Kodaira finished in 1:11.77.

[Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) skated straight after the two Japanese ladies had stunned the crowd with their blistering pace.

"Going after Miho and Nao, both going 1:11.7, that's a tough act to follow," Bowe said. "I knew I had to have a close-to-perfect race. If I had the opener that I'm capable of, and if I could do a 6.3 lap, I had a chance to beat it. I looked up on the scoreboard in my first lap and it was 6.3, and I just wielded my way to the finish line."

Takagi and Kodaira had to settle for second and third place in the distance as well as in the final World Cup ranking. Takagi was happy with her own performance, despite not finishing top: "I had a very good race with Nao but Bowe was just too fast," she said. "And she even had to skate the final outer corner, so she had to do it all by herself, which makes it all the more impressive."

Kodaira wins but falls short of record

Earlier on Saturday Kodaira had challenged the 500m world record, but came 0.11s short of [Sang-Hwa Lee](#)'s (KOR) 2013 time, 36.36. The Japanese Olympic Champion will have another shot at the record in the season's final 500m race on Sunday. She said: "I'm going to try it again. I'll have to skate a faster opening. Today it was 10.27, for a world record it has to be 10.1, which I have done once or twice before."

Austrian [Vanessa Herzog](#) (36.85) and Russian [Angelina Golikova](#) (36.93) came second and third in the 500m. With her second place Herzog secured the 500m World Cup. Golikova is second in the ranking, trailing by 128 points, with only 120 points available for the winner in the final race on Sunday.

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series please visit: 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.