

March 21, 2019

Saitama, Japan

## **Nathan Chen (USA) dominates Men's Short Program in Saitama**

Defending World Champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA) dominated in the Men's Short Program as the [ISU World Figure Skating Championships](#) continued Thursday in Saitama (JPN). Teammate [Jason Brown](#) (USA) came second while two-time Olympic Champion [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) (JPN) is currently ranked third.

Skating last, Chen hit a quadruple Lutz, a triple Axel and a quad-triple toeloop combination. The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champion collected a level four for his spins and footwork and achieved a season's best score of 107.40 points. "For the quad Lutz, I felt okay going up in the air, in the air, felt great and coming down, I just completely lost my foot, but somehow managed to pull it out, and I was really happy about that. It is always a pleasure to skate in Japan with this amazing crowd, it's such a huge crowd so that energy, I think all of the skaters really feel, and I always have a great time competing with the best of the best here at Worlds so I'm really looking forward to another long program," the 19-year-old commented.

Brown opened his program to "Love Is a Bitch" by Two Feet with a triple flip and followed up with a triple Axel and a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination as well as with excellent spins. The 2018 ISU Four Continents bronze medalist scored 96.81 points, a new season's best. "Obviously every time I competed, I loved performing in Japan and perform for these Japanese audiences. It is something I cherish and not what I take for granted. Today I got out there and I wanted to give them a show," the American skater said. "I am so focused right now and staying in the moment working on the things that we were working at home, so for my free skating, I have the same goals that I had before. I just want to give it a try and I would like to put out another personal best. I've been training and working a lot so all I got to do is to put it out there," he added.

Hanyu had a shaky start into his program to "Otonal" by Raul di Blasio when he doubled the planned quad Salchow. The two-time ISU World Figure Skating Champion rallied back to produce a triple Axel, quad toe-triple toe combination as well as level-four spins and footwork. "After I missed my first jump, my mind went blind. I guess I was a bit rushed for the first jump, and put myself up too much today. Now I feel frustrated with my performance," the 24-year-old said. "I would like to utilize tomorrow very wisely to prepare myself for free program on the day after tomorrow. I have a lot of experience in this type of environment despite not competing for last few months, and I am not happy about the fact I couldn't perform at my best for short program. What I can do from here is to fix my mistakes and to rest well," he continued.

2019 ISU Four Continents bronze medalist [Vincent Zhou](#) (USA) nailed a quadruple Lutz-triple toeloop combination and finished fourth on 94.17 points, just edged out of the top three. [Matteo Rizzo](#) (ITA) is not far behind in fifth with 93.37 points. 2018 Olympic and World silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#) (JPN) came sixth after falling on an underrotated quad flip (91.40 points).

The Men's event will conclude with the Free Skating on Saturday. The [ISU World Figure Skating Championships](#) continue Friday with the Rhythm Dance and the Ladies Free Skating.

For more information, full entry lists and results please see the [ISU event website](#) and [official event website](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using the hashtag [#WorldFigure](#).

ISU Media Coordinator  
Selina Vanier  
[vanier@isu.ch](mailto:vanier@isu.ch)  
+81 (0)80 9298 2618

**For further information please contact:**

ISU World FS Championships  
Tamio Suzuki, Press Officer  
[19wfc-saitama@mediaoffice.co.jp](mailto:19wfc-saitama@mediaoffice.co.jp)  
+81 (0)48 816 3780