

February 8, 2020

Seoul, Korea

ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020

Day Three

[Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN) skated to their sixth Four Continents title while [Rika Kihira](#) (JPN) took her second title as the ISU Four Continents Championships 2020 continued in Seoul (KOR) Saturday.

Kihira (JPN) prevails in triple Axel battle to repeat as Four Continents Champion

[Rika Kihira](#) of Japan prevailed in what was a tough competition to defend her title. Korea's [Young You](#) moved up one spot to take the silver medal and [Bradie Tennell](#) (USA) claimed the bronze. You and Tennell's medals were their first at ISU Championships.

Kihira opened her routine titled "International Angel of Peace" with a triple Salchow but then singled her planned first triple Axel. Unfazed, the Japanese Champion went on to hit a triple Axel-double toeloop combination as well as six triple jumps and level-four spins and footwork.

The 17-year-old scored 151.16 points, close to her season's best, and racked up 232.34 points overall to seal victory.

"My goal was to get the first place twice in a row in this Four Continents Championship," Kihira said.

"So, I became a little bit impatient because of my first mistake in the Axel. But I was able to re-calculate and re-assemble the structure of my performance.

"I tried to switch my mind and focus on the next element right away after I did my first mistake. It was good experience for me to prepare for the next competition."

To the delight of the home crowd, You delivered an excellent performance to "Evita", reeling off a triple Axel as well as six clean triples. The only glitch was an underrotated triple flip.

The Youth Olympic Games Champion posted a personal best of 149.68 and tallied 223.23 points overall to take the first ISU Championship medal for a Korean figure skater since Yuna Kim won gold at the ISU World Championships in 2013.

It was also only the second medal for a Korean skater at the ISU Four Continents Championships.

"I was very happy to do the triple Axel and then there was no mistake in my jumps," You said.

"I focused on a clean performance. Especially since this event was held in Korea I had a little pressure. I got a good result and I'm very happy about it.

"I'm the first Korean skater to have a medal after Yuna Kim and I feel very honored to be first since her and to achieve this in my home country", she added.

Skating to "Cinema Paradiso", Tennell overcame a wobble on her opening triple Lutz-triple toe combination to produce a total of seven triples as well as difficult spins and footwork. The National bronze medalist achieved a season's best with 147.04 points. She slipped from second to third at 222.97 points overall.

"Breaking my season's best has given me a very good confidence boost," Tennell said.

"At this competition I feel like I was able to relax and skate the way that I do every day. That's kind of been my goal not only this year but also last year. I feel like I never quite achieved it last year.

"But this year throughout each competition I've been getting closer and closer and at this competition I was able to really achieve that."

2018 World silver medalist [Wakaba Higuchi](#) (JPN) pulled up from fifth to fourth place at 207.46 points. She missed a triple Axel but landed six triples. 2018 Four Continents Champion [Kaori Sakamoto](#) (JPN) came fifth (202.79 points) followed by [Yelim Kim](#) (KOR).

Sui/Han (CHN) take sixth Four Continents title

China's [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) skated to their sixth Four Continents title as the Pairs event wrapped up at the ISU Four Continents Championships in Seoul (KOR) on Saturday. [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) made it one-two for China by taking the silver medal. [Kirsten Moore-Towers/Michael Marinaro](#) of Canada dropped from first to third to earn the bronze medal.

Sui/Han turned in a strong performance to "Rain, In Your Black Eyes" by Ezio Bosso that featured a triple twist, side by side triple toeloop-double toeloop-double toeloop, a throw triple Salchow and flip as well as difficult lifts. The two-time World Champions collected a level four for all elements. Their only error came when Sui doubled the side by side Salchow.

The Olympic silver medalists scored 144.34 points for the Free Skating and pulled up from third to first at 217.51 points total.

"Every time it is very special and very different. It gives us more confidence and trust," Han said about winning their sixth Four Continents title.

"It (the title) is dear to me because we lost the Short Program but then we caught up with the long program and that is very special to me. Today we are quite satisfied we showed a good level of skating.

"We realized where we had problems and we'll figure them out and make some adjustments as we prepare for the World Championships," he continued.

Skating to the "Cloud Atlas" soundtrack, Peng/Jin delivered as well, producing a triple Salchow, triple toe-double toe, triple twist and throw triple loop and Salchow. The ISU Grand Prix Final silver medalists earned a season's best 137.33 points and totaled 213.29 points to repeat as silver medalists at the Four Continents.

“We are quite satisfied with our performance,” Peng said. “Our training before these Championships was not as solid as we would have liked it so there was some progress today.

“Now we want to train hard and prepare for the World Championship.”

Moore-Towers/Marinaro’s performance to “Carry You” by Ruelle was highlighted by their throw triple loop and excellent lifts. However, Marinaro fell on a transition move and they struggled with the solo jumps.

“The Canadian Champions were ranked fourth in the Free Skating with 125.44 points, but overall held on to third place at 201.80 points.

“It was a little bit rough for us today,” Moore-Towers admitted. “We don’t perform like this today as we do in training, so it was a bit of a head-scratcher.

“We’ve been practicing really well and it’s become apparent that we need to translate what we do in training into how we perform at competitions.

“We don’t have much to say but we will take what we learnt from this competition and change that going forward,” she continued.

[Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson](#) (USA) came fourth on 196.15 points. [Tarah Kayne/Danny O’Shea](#) (USA) moved up from seventh to fifth on 186.20 points. [Evelyn Walsh/Trennt Michaud](#) (CAN) placed sixth (177.58 points).

[Alexa Scimeca/Chris Knierim](#) (USA) withdrew from the event due to family illness. They stood in fifth place following the Short Program.

The ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020 conclude Sunday with the Men’s Free Skating and the Exhibition Gala.

Where to watch and follow the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020?

Viewers will be able to watch either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#). You will find the full list in the [Where to Watch news here](#).

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