

March 4, 2020

Tallinn, Estonia

## **ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020, Day One**

[Yuma Kagiyama](#) (JPN) and [Apollinariia Panfilova/Dmitry Rylov](#) (RUS) took the lead in the Junior Men's and Junior Pairs Short Programs as the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020 opened in Tallinn, Estonia, on Wednesday.

### **Yuma Kagiyama (JPN) clinches lead in Junior Men's Short Program**

Youth Olympic Games Champion [Yuma Kagiyama](#) of Japan clinched a narrow lead over Russia's [Andrei Mozalev](#) in the Junior Men's Short Program on Wednesday. [Andrew Torgashev](#) (USA) came in third.

Skating to Piano Concerto "Fate" by Akira Senju, Kagiyama landed a triple Axel, triple loop, triple Lutz-triple toe combination and picked up a level four for his spins. The Four Continents bronze medalist scored 85.82 points.

"I was very relaxed today," he said. "I was little bit concerned about my triple Axel, but my practice has been going quite well so I was able to do it with confidence.

"As for the Lutz-toe combination, it was a bit shaky on the first jump, but I was able to recompose myself after the first jump.

"This is my last short program of the season, so I was very happy to do a good performance. Anything can happen in the free program, I just need to continue to focus."

Mozalev's performance to "I'll Never Forget You" from the Russian rock opera "Juno and Avos" featured a triple loop, triple Axel and triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination as well as level-four spins and footwork.

The Youth Olympic Games silver medalist set a personal best of 84.31 points. "I am basically pleased with my performance. Obviously, there were some little issues, I'll work on them and try not to repeat them in the free skating," the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final runner-up said.

Torgashev hit a triple Axel, triple flip-triple toe and the loop, which is the required solo jump in the Junior Short Program this season in his program to "Bloodstream" by Tokio Myers to score 81.50 points. It was a new personal best for him.

"I've been training very hard for this competition. I was very happy that I was able to skate a program that I've been training," the 18-year-old said.

"I didn't finish all my spins all the way, where I lost a few points. However, I felt very confident with the jumps. I loved the program today, I loved the feeling of it and I'm very excited to go into the long program."

To the delight of the home crowd, [Aleksandr Selevko](#) (EST) turned in a clean performance as well to remain in medal contention in fourth place on 80.87 points. ISU Junior Grand Prix Final champion [Shun Sato](#) (JPN) follows in fifth on 79.30 points. 2019 World Junior bronze medalist [Daniel Grassl](#) (ITA) is sixth with 78.91 points.

## Panfilova/Rylov top Russian sweep in the Junior Pairs Short Program in Tallinn

ISU Junior Grand Prix Final champions [Apollinariia Panfilova/Dmitry Rylov](#) topped a Russian sweep of the Pairs Short Program at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Tallinn (EST) Wednesday. [Kseniia Akhanteva/Valerii Kolesov](#) edged [Luliia Artemeva/Mikhail Nazarychev](#) by just 0.18 points to come second. All teams set new personal best scores.

Performing to “The Matrix” soundtrack, Panfilova/Rylov produced a huge triple twist, throw triple flip, double Axel as well as a level-four reverse lasso lift, side-by-side combination spin and step sequence. The 2019 World Junior silver medalists scored 73.71 points.

“I’d say our performance was 80 percent,” Panfilova said. “We didn’t get the level on the death spiral that we wanted, but overall it was quite good. We are our main competitors. If we’re looking at the other teams in the warm-up, I don’t think anything good will come out of it.”

Akhanteva/Kolesov’s program to “Interstellar” by Hans Zimmer featured a triple twist, throw triple flip, double Axel and four level-four elements. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Finalists picked up 70.44 points.

“We are pleased with our performance, it was not bad but it wasn’t our best either,” Kolesov said. “For the free skating, we’re not thinking ahead, we just want to skate clean and achieve a season’s best score.”

Artemeva/Nazarychev completed a high triple twist, double Axel and throw triple flip in their routine set to “Senza Pole” by Il Divo to earn 70.26 points.

“The short program was not ideal, there were some mistakes. In the free skating, we need to skate clean and show our maximum,” Nazarychev commented.

ISU Junior Grand Prix Finalists [Annika Hocke/Robert Kunkel](#) (GER) placed fourth with a clean performance and 63.57 points. [Kate Finster/Balazs Nagy](#) (USA) finished fifth on 58.33 points while [Cleo Hamon/Denys Strekalin](#) (FRA) are ranked sixth on 58.23 points.

The ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships continue Thursday with the Junior Rhythm Dance and Junior Pairs Free Skating.

For more information, full entry lists and results please see the [ISU website](#) and the [official event website](#). Follow the event on social media using the hashtags #WorldJFigure and #FigureSkating.