

November 21, 2021

Stavanger, Norway

## **Ning (CHN) gears up for Beijing with 1500m gold as Kodaira, Shinhama and Takagi make it three for Japan on Sunday**

[Ning Zhongyan](#) (CHN) is gearing up well for the Olympic Games on home ice in February. The 22-year-old Chinese middle-distance specialist won his career-second ISU World Cup Speed Skating gold in the Men's 1500m in Stavanger on Sunday. [Tatsuya Shinhama](#) (JPN) won his second 500m race of the new World Cup season on a successful day for Japanese Speed Skating.

[Nao Kodaira](#) (JPN) and [Miho Takagi](#) (JPN) won the Women's 500m and 1500m respectively to make it three gold medals for Japan on Sunday. Kodaira completed the medal set in Stavanger, having won 1000m bronze on Friday and 500m silver on Saturday.

### **Shinhama keeps Dubreuil at bay in thrilling last pair**

Before Dubreuil and Shinhama faced each other in the final pair of the 500m, [Artem Arefyev](#) (RUS) set the fastest time in 34.67 seconds. It would eventually leave him in third place after the No.1 and No.2 in the World Cup ranking both beat the Russian's time.

"It's fun to be in the last pair," Dubreuil said. "We both showed up with a good race, and I think the crowd liked it. It was a lot of fun to be part of."

Having started in the outer lane, the Canadian World 500m Champion seemed to have an advantage with a draft on the backstretch.

"I thought so too," he said, "but Tatsuya's (Shinhama) last corner and the last 100 meters were really good. He's a great skater too. It was a really close race."

Shinhama skated a 9.56s opener, and finished in 34.57s. Dubreuil was 0.08s slower at the 100m split, and managed to win 0.05s back in the full lap to finish in 34.61s.

"Obviously. I wish I was four or five hundredths faster and win. But it's a very good race, nonetheless."

Heading home after the first two World Cup events, Dubreuil looked back on some good races.

"I've been on the podium every race. It's not something that I was necessarily thinking about. I think about racing good every time but a fourth or fifth place is a good race as well. The level is so high."

"Now I'm flying back to Quebec for five days. It's going to be fun to see my family again and then take a few days off. I think I earned it."

After a short break at home, Dubreuil will travel to Salt Lake City for the third World Cup, taking place the first weekend of December, and Calgary for the fourth World Cup the following weekend.

### **Ning takes the lead in King's race**

Men's competition at the Stavanger World Cup concluded with the 1500m. World Champion [Thomas Krol](#) (NED) and Olympic Champion [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) have dominated the distance over the past four seasons but they've not been their normal selves in the King's race so far this season.

Despite a gold for Krol, and bronze for Nuis, in Friday's 1000m, the two Dutchmen couldn't make amends for their disappointing 1500m last week in Poland, where Krol finished in 16th place and Nuis placed sixth. Here in Stavanger, Krol came fifth and Nuis seventh.

With the pair of them struggling, [Ning Zhongyan](#) (CHN) stepped up his game. After last week's silver medal, the Chinese prodigy took gold in 1:45.16, and grabbed the lead in the World Cup rankings too.

Perhaps even more than other athletes, Ning's season is built around the Olympic Games in Beijing in February.

"It's very important for me to win this medal. It gives me great confidence for the Olympic year going forward," he said.

The home Olympics brings greater demands for Ning.

"Yes, there's some degree of pressure, for sure, with the Olympics in China but I believe athletes from other countries have pressure too."

Ning took the 1500m World Cup lead from [Kim Min-Seok](#) (KOR), who had won in Poland last week. With 1:45.63 the Korean took bronze in Stavanger.

The silver medal went to [Joey Mantia](#) (USA), who took bronze in Poland.

"It was good, I just fly," Mantia said, his back-to-back 1500m medal coming as something of a surprise to the man himself.

"I took the week really hard for training and took the opportunity, as I was only skating the 1500m this weekend, to train really hard on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

"I'm happy with the training I got in and I really didn't know what to expect today. I thought I would be a little worse than that. So to have a silver after that week, I'm really, really happy about it.

Mantia's intense training ahead of Stavanger is designed to pay off at the third World Cup on his home ice in Salt Lake City in two weeks.

"I'll taper for (the next World Cup in) Salt Lake (City) because that's where I really want to shine.

"It's a lot of skating for me in Salt Lake. I have two Mass Start races, a 1500m and a Team Pursuit. We'll see how it goes, but I'm training for at least the Mass Start and 1500m combination."

### **Opener makes the difference**

Kodaira had already predicted her 500m victory after Saturday's silver medal. The Olympic Champion skated 0.08s faster than she did the day before, stopping the clock at 37.52 seconds.

“Today my opener was better, that’s the reason I won,” Kodaira analyzed after her race. She skated the first 100m on Saturday in 10.54s, compared with 10.42s on Sunday.

While Kodaira enjoyed a better opener, Jackson struggled with her start in her two 500m races in Stavanger, whereas she had been fast with 10.3 openers in Poland.

“I’ve been struggling with my starts all season,” the US sprinter said. “In Poland, I was actually like, ‘Oh, this is really good’. But the start today is more like how it’s been going.”

Jackson opened in 10.47s on Sunday, and finished in 37.67 to take silver.

Despite her shaky starts, Jackson was satisfied reflecting on the first two ISU World Cup Speed Skating weekends and looked forward to getting back home to gear up for the next World Cup in Salt Lake City, December 3-5.

“I feel like I’m in a good spot, setting up for the season,” she said.

“(At home I’ll be) recharging and getting ready to have some good races on home ice. Probably hanging out with my pets and my dad. (I’ve got) two cats and a dog.

[Angelina Golikova](#) (RUS) finished third in 37.71s. She had struggled a bit with her inner-lane start.

“For ladies it’s better to start in the outer lane because you can control your opponent,” she said.

“When you start in the inner lane you must focus only on yourself. Today I did well but I think I lost some speed in the last 100m. I focused so much on the start and the change-up. That last 100m is the final step (to work on).”

### **Takagi makes it three gold medals for Japan**

[In the Women’s 1500m](#), Miho Takagi (JPN) wrapped up the World Cup weekend in the Sørmarka Arena by taking Japan’s third gold medal of the day. Before Kodaira won the Women’s 500m, [Tatsuya Shinhama](#) (JPN) had already seized gold in the Men’s 500m.

[Ayano Sato](#) (JPN) completed the Japanese party, taking her career-first World Cup medal in a classic distance with bronze in the Women’s 1500m.

Takagi skated a well-paced 1500m, stopping the clock at 1 minute, 55.67 seconds. Following her victory, the 27-year-old was satisfied but very tired.

“Today, it was so hard because I did already two races on Friday.” Apart from finishing second in the 1000m, the 2018 World Allround Champion had also come fourth in Friday’s B Division 5000m.

Takagi’s ability to excel in so many different distances might leave some wondering what her target will be for the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing.

“That’s a difficult question,” Takagi said. “(To skate) the long distances is also good for the other distances. I don’t target medals in the 5000m, but I also want to do Allround Championships.”

[Ireen Wüst](#) (NED) finished the 1500m in second place, in 1:56.25, struggling to maintain pace in the final lap.

“I’m satisfied,” the Olympic Champion said. “But that final lap is a bit of a bummer. I was on course pretty well but then I just got up a little too much.

“Usually (the final lap) is one of my strengths. Today I just had trouble making pace and then it’s hard to stay low in that final lap.

“At first I was a little disappointed because I think a win would have been possible today, but I’m happy with silver. Miho (Takagi) is strong, last week already. She makes pace a little easier and that leaves her with a bit more left in the tank for the final lap.

“I’m still searching for that easy pace, but there’s an upward trend and I’m looking forward to Salt Lake City in two weeks.

“After Salt Lake City I’ll head for the sun in the south of Spain (for a training camp). That’s what I’ve always done, especially in an Olympic season, so why change?”

## **Standings**

Team Sprint Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Team Sprint Women](#)

Team Sprint Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Team Sprint Men](#)

3000m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 3000m Women](#)

5000m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 5000m Men](#)

500m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 500m Women](#)

1000m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1000m Men](#)

1500m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1500m Women](#)

Mass Start Final Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Mass Start Men](#)

500m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 500m Men](#)

1000m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1000m Women](#)

1500m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1500m Men](#)

Mass Start Women  
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Mass Start Women](#)

The event entry quotas for the individual distances will be determined by the [Special Olympic Qualification Classification \(SOQC\)](#) based on results from the different ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions and the full details are available in [ISU Communication 2405](#).

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series please visit: [isu.org/speed-skating](http://isu.org/speed-skating). Results are [here](#) and you can follow the discussion on social media by using #SpeedSkating.

### Where to Watch

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](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the “Where to Watch” news. You can also subscribe to the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

YouTube: [ISU Skating](#)

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Follow the conversation with #SpeedSkating.

For further information on ISU Speed Skating visit <https://www.isu.org/speed-skating>

### ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series 2021/22:

[Tomaszów Mazowiecki \(POL\) – Nov 12 – 14, 2021](#)

[Stavanger \(NOR\) - Nov 19 - Nov 21, 2021](#)

Salt Lake City (USA) - Dec 03 - Dec 05, 2021

[Calgary \(CAN\) – Dec 10 - Dec 12, 2021](#)

[Final – Heerenveen \(NED\) – Mar 12 - Mar 13, 2022](#)

### 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. However during the Olympic season the Series consists of five Events.

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 and during the Olympic season they are Olympic Qualifying Events. 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 Women 500m, 1000m, 1500m, the

combined 3000m / 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For further information please visit [isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating](https://isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating).