

November 27, 2021

Lausanne, SUI

## **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2021/22 Rostelecom Cup, Day One**

[Kamila Valieva](#) (RUS), [Kazuki Tomono](#) (JPN), [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) (RUS) and ISU World Ice Dance Champions [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) (RUS) skated to the lead as [Rostelecom Cup](#), the sixth and final event of the ISU Grand Prix series 2021/22, opened Friday in the Olympic city of Sochi (RUS).

### **Kazuki Tomono (JPN) grabs lead in Men's Short Program**

Japan's [Kazuki Tomono](#) grabbed a narrow lead over [Morisi Kvitelashvili](#) of Georgia in the Men's Short Program. Canadian [Roman Sadovsky](#) sits currently in third place.

Skating to "Cinema Paradiso", Tomono produced a quad toe-triple toe, quad Salchow and triple Axel as well as difficult spins and footwork to set a personal best score of 95.81 points.

"If I could do my best I knew I could get to 95 points. The jumps aside from the toe loop were not that great. I had small mistakes and was not moving as well as I had liked so I was happy I got my best score," Kazuki said.

"I know there's room to improve to get to 100 points. I was nervous overall, steps and others were not my best but with the tension I was able to put on a good performance overall. A lot of practice paid off," he continued.

Kvitelashvili's performance to "Tout l'Univers" featured a quad Salchow-triple toe, quad toe and triple Axel. The 2020 European bronze medalist picked up a personal best as well with 95.37 points.

"I was able to put out a decent performance today and it is good that everything worked out," the 2020 Rostelecom silver medalist said.

"Tomorrow (for the Free Skating) I try to go out with the same kind of mindset and stick to my plan that we've worked out in practice."

Sadovsky landed a quad Salchow and triple Lutz-triple toe to "Breath for Me", but stepped of his triple Axel to score a season's best of 84.59 points.

"Overall I am very pleased with how it went today. I had a little bit of a struggle this season internationally. It was nice to take whatever experience I had at Skate Canada and improve on them in this competition," the Canadian Champion commented.

2021 Gran Premio d'Italia silver medalist [Mikhail Kolyada](#) (RUS) fell on his quad toeloop to finish fourth at 84.48 points, but remains in medal contention. [Camden Pulkinen](#) (USA) placed fifth on 83.47 points followed by [Michal Brezina](#) (CZE) on 82.31 points.

## Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov (RUS) rule in Rhythm Dance

ISU World Champions [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) of Russia danced to a confident lead in the Rhythm Dance. Italy's [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#) finished second ahead of [Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen](#) of Canada.

Sinitsina/Katsalapov put out a lively performance to "You Can Leave Your Hat On" and "Brickhouse", completing intricate footwork and a rotational lift. The Midnight Blues, his twizzles and pattern dance step sequence garnered a level four while the lift and midline step were rated a level three. The 2021 World Champions achieved a season's best of 86.81 points.

"We are pleased with our performance today, but it was not a 100 percent yet and there is a huge amount of things for us to work on," Sinitsina told the post-event press conference.

"We are happy to have a season's best. We went out with a positive mindset and the spectators were very welcoming and it was a great atmosphere at the rink," she continued.

Guignard/Fabbri's dance to songs by Michael Jackson was highlighted by a straight line lift and fluid steps. The 2019 European bronze medalists picked up a level four for the lift and her twizzles to earn 79.56 points.

"We have contrasting feelings about this performance," Fabbri admitted. "Overall we felt we skated much better here than at Skate Canada and we improved the performance.

"Unfortunately we had some problems with the twizzles, that's why we lost some points there and we are a little disappointed about this mistake."

Fournier Beaudry/Soerensen delivered a smooth performance to a George Michael medley, collecting a level four for the stationary lift and the twizzles. The 2021 Skate America bronze medalists scored 76.39 points.

"It felt pretty good today, but it wasn't perfect. We're still trying to find our way through the short dance, navigating how to dance throughout. We definitely improved on the performance a lot in general and also on the technical side since Skate America," Soerensen noted.

[Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin](#) (ESP) are not far behind in fourth place at 75.95 points. [Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) are currently ranked fifth (73.72 points) while [Anastasia Skoptcova/Kirill Aleshin](#) (RUS) came sixth (71.95 points).

## Pavliuchenko/Khodykin (RUS) edge Mishina/Galliamov (RUS) in Pairs Short

[Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) edged reigning ISU World Champions [Anastasia Mishina/Aleksandr Galliamov](#) and led the Russian Pairs to a sweep in the Short Program. [Iasmina Kadyrova/Ivan Balchenko](#) are currently sitting in third place.

Pavliuchenko/Khodykin put in an exciting performance to "Be Italian" that featured very original entries and exits into the elements such as the triple twist. They hit a triple toe, throw triple loop

and got a level four for the twist, lift and side by side spin. The 2016 World Junior Champions set a season's best of 73.91 points.

"We are happy that our performance worked out well, we were able to enjoy it and have the emotions. Thanks all who supported us - the audience and the TV audience," Khodykin noted. "We made the entries and exits of our elements much harder, but there are the only few true acrobatic tricks in the program," he explained.

Mishina/Galliamov opened their entertaining performance to "Esmeralda" with a triple twist and throw triple flip, but then Mishina fell out of the triple Salchow which was downgraded as a result. The NHK Trophy Champions picked up a level four for all "level" elements and scored 73.64 points.

"Our performance today way was not good. I don't want to justify anything, but perhaps it's because we were skating in front of a home crowd, which is always a bit harder. We wanted to do our absolute best and it didn't work," Mishina commented.

Skating to "Bolero for Violin and Orchestra", Kadyrova/Balchenko landed a triple Salchow, triple twist and throw triple Salchow. The couple from St Petersburg achieved a new personal best score with 69.37 points.

"Our skate was good and we are happy to be in our first Grand Prix event. We want to thank the audience for their support, it really helps," Balchenko said.

[Audrey Lu/Misha Mitrofanov](#) (USA) came fourth at 64.97 points followed by [Ioulia Chtchetinina/Mark Magyar](#) (HUN) on 63.99 points and [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) (ITA) at 59.92 points.

### **Kamila Valieva (RUS) wins Women's Short Program with new record score**

2020 ISU World Junior Champion [Kamila Valieva](#) of Russia set a new record score en route to winning the Women's Short Program. Teammate [Elizaveta Tuktamysheva](#) came second and [Mariah Bell](#) (USA) finished third on the first day of competition.

Valieva delivered an excellent performance to "In Memoriam" by Kirill Richter, reeling off a triple Axel with both arms raised above her head, a triple flip, triple Lutz-triple toe and level-four spins and footwork. The 2020 World Junior Champion set a new record score with 87.42 points for the Women's Short Program.

"I almost did my maximum today. There is always a place for improvement, the combo was not so great," 15-year-old Valieva said. "I enjoyed skating today, especially in the step sequence and I hope I was able to project the character I was trying to."

Performing to "J'oublie (Oblivion)", Tuktamysheva hit a triple Axel, triple Lutz-triple toe and triple flip and collected a level four for her spins and steps. The 2021 ISU World silver medalist scored 80.10 points.

"I am happy with my skate today, I enjoyed it. I think it's thanks to the support of the audience and the crowd cheered so much for all girls and we felt it. When the mood and the energy is so high

you feel great skating and you don't get tired by the end of the program," the 2015 World Champion said. "I was a bit ill a week ago and my preparation was affected, so am happy with the skate," she added.

Bell's program to "River Flows In You" included a triple flip-double toe combination, triple Lutz and double Axel. The American netted a season's best of 69.37 points.

"I was in France last week and obviously I didn't have a great short program there. And here, not doing the planned triple-triple, so still leaving points out. I was able to get the points on the levels and spins that I missed in France," Bell commented. "This program is really enjoyable for me, but I haven't really competed yet this year except for last week so it feels very new to me, but I really enjoyed it and I am pleased with today went and I'm looking forward to tomorrow."

[Madeline Schizas](#) (CAN) is currently ranked fourth at 67.49 points with a clean performance. Gran Premio d'Italia silver medalist [Maija Khromykh](#) (RUS) fell on her triple Lutz to come fifth (64.72 points) while Premio d'Italia bronze medalist [Loena Hendrickx](#) (BEL) singled her flip and placed sixth (64.44 points).

Rostelecom Cup continues Saturday with the Men's Free Skating, Free Dance, Pairs and Women's Free Skating.

For full results, [click here](#).

Viewers are able to watch the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series](#) either via their national broadcaster / channel or via the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) for countries where there is no broadcaster agreement in place. For more information please see [here](#).

The [General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series is available at the ISU website. The individual announcements are published under the respective events. For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit [here](#). The ISU has an anti-Covid protocol in place to keep all participants of the events as safe as possible.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events: [Guaranteed Rate Skate America](#) in Las Vegas (USA) October 22-24, [Skate Canada International](#) in Vancouver (CAN) October 29-31, [Gran Premio d'Italia](#) in Turin (ITA) November 5-7, [NHK Trophy](#) in Tokyo (JPN) November 12-14, [Internationaux de France](#) in Grenoble (FRA) November 19-21 and [Rostelecom Cup](#) in Sochi (RUS) November 26-28. The [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final](#) will take place in Osaka (JPN) December 9-12.

#### **About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating**

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six invitational international senior events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The top six of the past World Championships are seeded. Competitors collect points in their events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.