

February 6, 2022

Beijing, China

## **China's golden Short Track boys, Schulting (NED) and Fontana (ITA) eager to start individual medal hunt in Beijing**

### **Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games**

China's golden Short Track boys [Dajing Wu](#) and [Ziwei Ren](#), the legendary [Arianna Fontana](#) (ITA), Dutch Short Track queen [Suzanne Schulting](#) and more stars are eager to start their individual medal hunt as the Short Track competition continues on February 6 with the Women's 500m and Men's 1000m at the Beijing Capital Indoor Stadium.

#### **Overview of the top contenders**

Wu and Ren come fresh off their victory in the Mixed Team Relay of February 5 that fuels their motivation for the 1000m. "We are very happy to win the first gold medal for China and it is a motivation for the teammates. This is a very good start and hopes are high for the coming days," Wu said after winning gold with the Mixed Relay.

However, competition will be tough with a field packed with strong contenders. 2018 Olympic silver medalist [Daeheon Hwang](#) (KOR) holds the world record over this distance and set an Olympic record in the heats on Saturday. The popular brothers [Shaoang](#) and [Shaolin Sandor Liu](#) (HUN) feel confident following their success in the Mixed Relay. The experienced [Sjinkie Knegt](#) (NED), World Cup ranking leader [Pascal Dion](#) (CAN) and [Itzhak de Laat](#) (NED) are other contenders.

In the Women's 500m, living legend [Arianna Fontana](#) (ITA) has a chance to add a tenth Olympic medal after making history already on February 5, becoming the most decorated Short Track Speed Skater with nine Olympic medals. The Italian tops also the ISU World Cup ranking.

"I am very happy with my medal, it is the right way to start the Olympic Games. It is a big booster for the next events," Fontana said after winning silver with the Mixed Relay. "I have lots of energy now for the next events."

Fontana has to expect resistance from Schulting, who is hoping for a gold medal sweep in all individual distances. She set a new Olympic record in the heats and is the hot favorite. "I'm faster than ever, that gives a lot of confidence," Schulting said. "Obviously there is pressure. I put it on myself, you guys put that pressure on me, but I don't feel like I will crack."

Competition should also come from three-time Olympic medalist [Kim Boutin](#) (CAN), two-time Olympic champion [Minjeong Choi](#) (KOR), [Kristen Santos](#) (USA) and newly minted Mixed Relay Olympic Champion [Kexin Fan](#) (CHN).

The competition starts with the quarterfinals on February 7 at the Beijing Capital Indoor Stadium.

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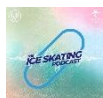
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The International Skating Union (ISU), founded in 1892, is the oldest governing international winter sport federation and the exclusive international sport federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering the sports of Figure Skating (Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance), Synchronized Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating worldwide. The objectives of the ISU are to regulate, govern, promote and develop its sports on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding between athletes. Currently three ISU disciplines are included in the Olympic Winter Games program (Figure Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating). For further information please visit [isu.org](#).