

March 13, 2022

Heerenveen, the Netherlands

Tired champions end season on high note at World Cup finals in packed Thialf

He had been too tired to sleep last night, but [Laurent Dubreuil](#) (CAN) managed to recharge himself for one final effort on Sunday. Coming in fourth in the 500m, the Canadian secured the World Cup Trophy in the shortest distance. [Tatsuya Shinhama](#) (JPN) won the last race to finish a disappointing season on a high note. Kjeld Nuis added a 1500m gold to Saturday's 1000m win, but Joey Mantia (USA) went home with the 1500m World Cup Trophy, and Bart Swings (BEL) finished this season's action securing the Mass Start Trophy with a confident win in the final race.

In the women's competition [Irene Schouten](#) (NED) added two more gold medals to her incredible season's tally at the World Cup final. She won the 3000m and the Mass Start, while Olympic 500m Champion [Erin Jackson](#) (USA) secured the 500m World Cup Trophy winning the final race on Sunday. [Miho Takagi](#) (JPN) seized 1000m gold, with [Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) taking home the 1000m World Cup Trophy.

Dubreuil makes it count

Dubreuil went into the final weekend leading the men's 500m World Cup, but had a last minute flight from Oslo to Amsterdam to compete on Saturday, after a Covid infection last week. Arriving straight from the airport on the Thialf ice on Saturday, he managed to come in second in the penultimate race. Recovering for Sunday had not been easy.

"I was so tired, but too tired to sleep well. I had a really bad night of sleep, exhausted from the whole thing," he said. "Physically, I felt better today but mentally, I was just so I tired. I tried to use the crowd and race fast."

Dubreuil was 0.10 slower than he had been on Saturday. Finishing in 34.63s, he needed 0.15s more than Shinhama, who took his second win of the season. [Piotr Michalski](#) (POL) took the season's last silver medal and [Wataru Morishige](#) (JPN) seized bronze on Sunday.

"It was not the best of races," Dubreuil said. "But I also knew that I just needed to finish, and tenth place or eleventh would have been good enough (to win the 500m World Cup Trophy).

"When I saw the times, I was comfortable, just skating smooth, and I could have gone a bit faster, but I didn't take the risk. The most important was to finish the job I've done all season."

Dubreuil kept Shinhama and Morishige behind in the season's 500m ranking. Dubreuil said: "That's something I'm very proud of. Ever since my daughter was born, I tell my wife that when I leave, I want to make it count."

In Heerenveen he had the best of both worlds, making it count and having his wife and daughter at his side to join in the celebrations. "We're going to Spain for two weeks and a half, tomorrow. It's going to be a well-deserved vacation, because it's been a long last few months without them," he said.

Shinhama will be back

Tatsuya Shinhama looked back on a season of ups and downs. Having won two out of four races in the first two World Cup weekends, he dropped the ball in January and February only to come back with two victories in the final weekend.

"At the (third) World Cup in Salt Lake City, I had a problem with my body," he said. "I lost a little bit of a balance (during the race), and afterwards, I felt a little bit of pain, so that's why I was out of shape in Calgary (fourth World Cup)."

Winning the final two races of the season reignited his racing fire, however, and Shinhama is ready to take on Dubreuil in the coming years.

“My final goal is to win all the titles in speed skating,” he said. “I already won the World Sprint Championships, but I don’t have titles in the World Single Distance Championships and the Olympic Games, so that would be my next goal, and next season there will be a World Single Distance Championships. I’m aiming at the 500m gold and I also like to try in the 1000m.”

Nuis and Krol restore order

[Kjeld Nuis](#) and [Thomas Krol](#) (NED) restored the order in the 1500m. The Olympic gold and silver medalists from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games were not even in the top 10 of the 1500m ranking after the first four World Cups, but they reigned supreme in the final 1500m race of the season.

Nuis hammered out a time of 1 minute and 43.48 seconds to take gold and Krol snatched silver in 1:43.79. Canada’s [Connor Howe](#) (CAN) clocked 1:44.39 to complete the podium. [Joey Mantia](#) (USA) finished in 1:47.71 to come twelfth, which was enough to take home the World Cup Trophy.

Having restored the order, Nuis had an explanation for his mediocre 1500m races at the start of the World Cup season, saying: “I can only speak for myself (not for Krol). I had a technical issue, and ahead of the first first World Cups, I had trained just a bit too hard.”

Nuis enjoyed winning in front of a packed Thialf crowd and was already thinking about the future. “I hope to hold on to this, to try and fight it out with Thomas (in the middle distances) up to Milan (2026 Olympic Games),” he said.

First the Olympic 1500m Champion is off to Norway. “I’ll try to break the World Speed Skating Speed record again,” he said. In 2018, Nuis managed to skate 93km/h. Now he thinks he can break the 100km/h barrier. “They’ve been working on the track for three months. It’s three kilometer long, ten meters wide, we’ll have an awesome car and an improved windshield for the drag. It’s going to be amazing.”

Swings reigns supreme in Mass Start

[Bart Swings](#) (BEL) reigned supreme in the Mass Start, as he has during the whole season. The Beijing Olympic Mass Start Champion outsprinted [Andrea Giovannini](#) (ITA) and [Jorrit Bergsma](#) (NED) in the final lap and thus secured the World Cup Trophy that was rightfully his.

“I could control the race,” he explained. “I had hoped to be able to get away from the pack in a small group, but we did not manage to. In the end we did get away with a small group for the final sprint and then I knew it was going to be all right for me.”

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

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

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

Schouten (NED) celebrates with double win, while Bowe and Jackson (USA) seize short distance World Cup Trophies

Dutch double in Mass Start

“This was one of the toughest weekends (of the season), Schouten said, coming off the ice after confidently winning the Mass Start race ahead of team-mate [Marijke Groenewoud](#) (NED) and [Francesca Lollobrigida](#) (ITA).

“I already felt roasted after the Olympic Games and I hung on by the skin of my teeth on the final day of the World Allround Championships last week,” Schouten said. “I even (considered) whether I was going to start here, but we haven’t been able to skate in front of a packed Thialf stadium this season yet, so I’m happy I did skate eventually.”

Despite being tired, Schouten’s Mass Start win was immaculate. With two laps to go, Groenewoud made pace and Schouten perfectly finished the job of her lead-out team-mate.

Schouten explained: “During the race I already sensed that [Ivanie Blondin](#) (CAN) and Lollobrigida were not fresh either, and when Marijke (Groenewoud) made the move, I saw that we immediately had a gap over the rest of the field.”

Coming in third ahead of Blondin, Lollobrigida secured the Mass Start World Cup Trophy, with Blondin coming second and Schouten, who skipped the third World Cup weekend, third.

Schouten confident in 3000m

Earlier on Sunday, Schouten had also won the 3000m. She kept [Ragne Wiklund](#) (NOR) at bay by a mere 0.33 second margin. Wiklund had skated a time of 3 minutes and 57.15 seconds before Schouten took the ice. Although the Olympic Champion had slower split times up until the final lap, she had never harboured any doubts about winning the race.

“It was all under control,” said Schouten. “I knew that she finished with a 32-second lap and three laps before the finish Jillert (coach Jillert Anema) already indicated that I would make it if I kept skating as I did, and I even felt that I could accelerate.”

Schouten went into the final lap trailing over a second, but sprinted to victory confidently, also taking home the 3000m World Cup Trophy ahead of Wiklund and Lollobrigida.

Wiklund had particularly enjoyed skating in front of a packed stadium, after having won her 1500m World Title in front of zero spectators in last season’s Thialf speed skating bubble.

“We had such a great race and it’s my best race for sure here in Thialf,” said Schouten. “It’s extra special to be here and be able to stand on the podium again in front of a full Thialf, and get some of the feeling that I missed out on last year.”

Seeing Schouten race, Wiklund didn’t have much hope for gold herself: “I was pretty convinced that she would do a really great last lap, as she always does, so it wasn’t unexpected to beat me in the end.”

Jackson and Bowe make coach proud

Before the 3000m and Mass Start events, [Erin Jackson](#) and [Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) made their former inline skating coach Renee Hildebrand (USA) proud, winning the 500m and 1000m World Cup respectively.

Hildebrand trained the two skaters, as well as the men’s 1500m World Cup Trophy winner [Joey Mantia](#), when they started as kids on wheels in Ocala Florida, long before switching to the ice later on in their careers.

“It was the first time she saw us skate in Thialf,” Bowe said. “And then for her to see the three of us thrive and win World Cup Trophies, that’s just amazing.”

Takagi shows clear dominance

Despite winning the World Cup Trophy, Bowe did not win the final race in the 1000m. Olympic Champion [Miho Takagi](#) (JPN) was just a little too strong, finishing in a time of 1 minute and 13.28 seconds on Sunday.

“Today Miho has shown her clear dominance in the past handful of 1000s, so nothing but respect there,” said Bowe. “It was such fun to skate in Thialf and getting silver today, another overall World Cup title, that’s incredible.”

Better start, worse lap for golden Jackson

Little over an hour earlier, Bowe had also come in second in the 500m, with Jackson coming out on top to take home the World Cup Trophy. "It was really fun to be on the podium with Erin," Bowe said.

With 37.32s Jackson skated the exact same time as she had done on Saturday. "(I had) a better start, but a worst lap," she laughed.

Bowe was almost half a second faster than she had been on Saturday, clocking 37.55s. Korea's [Min Sun Kim](#) took bronze in 37.58s.

Jackson had enjoyed sharing the glory with Bowe as much as her team-mate: "That was really, really amazing. I saw her warming up and I was like, yeah, she looks fast today," said Jackson.

"It was really cool to see her pull out a podium today and it's really awesome to share the podium with her."

After having won almost everything she could in the 500m this season, Jackson is setting new goals in speed skating. "I'm going to continue working on my technique, trying to be better technically. And then hopefully, changing my skating a bit to be successful in the 1000m."

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

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

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

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

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.