



Press release

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ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18: Bridgestone Skate America Day Two

World silver medalists [Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot](#) (GER) and Four Continents champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA) took the titles as Bridgestone Skate America continued on Saturday at Lake Placid (USA) with the Pairs and Men's Free Skating, the Short Dance and Ladies Short Program.

Bridgestone Skate America is the sixth and last event in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and provides the last opportunity for skaters to qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot (GER) soar to victory

World silver medalists [Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot](#) of Germany soared to victory in the Pairs Free Skating. China's [Xiaoyu Yu/Hao Zhang](#) claimed the silver medal while two-time world champions [Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford](#) of Canada dropped to third. All three teams qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Savchenko/Massot's exquisite routine to 'La terre vue du ciel' was highlighted by a huge triple twist, a throw triple Salchow, side by side triple toeloop and spectacular lifts.

Savchenko only reduced the combination to triple Salchow-single toeloop-single toeloop and slightly touched down with her free foot on the throw triple Lutz.

The European and World silver medalists posted a new personal best of 150.58 points for a total of 223.13 points to move up from third to first place.

"I feel better than yesterday," said Massot, who had fallen on the triple Salchow in the Short Program.

"It was a good fight and it was the first good job of the season. We still have to work, it was still not perfect, but we are on a good way for the Olympics."

Yu/Zhang delivered a strong program to 'Star Wars', producing a triple Salchow, triple twist, throw triple loop and Salchow as well as two level-four lifts.

The Audi Cup of China silver medalists earned 145.53 points, a new personal best, for a total of 219.20 points, to remain in second place.

"We are very happy, we did our best. We are very glad to go to the Grand Prix Final again," Yu said.

Performing to songs by Muse, Duhamel/Radford nailed a triple twist, triple Salchow-double toe-double toe, throw triple Lutz as well as level-four lifts.

However, Duhamel stepped out of the landing of the quadruple throw Salchow and fell on the triple Lutz.

The two-time World champions scored 140.31 points and accumulated 215.68 points overall.

“Today wasn’t our best skate, but it wasn’t our worst,” Duhamel said. “Overall we’re happy with our competition.

“This is a part of going to the Grand Prix Final, the last Grand Prix we’re competing [at] and I refuse to feel frustrated. We’re on the podium with these great teams and it was a great competition and we want to be proud.”

[Natalia Zabiako/Alexander Enbert](#) (RUS) placed fourth on 197.89 points and [Alexa Scimeca Knierim/Chris Knierim](#) (USA) were fifth on 189.07 points. [Kirsten Moore-Towers/Michael Marinaro](#) (CAN) pulled up from seventh to sixth place (187.81 points).

Chen (USA) survives dramatic Men’s Free Skating in Lake Placid

Four Continents champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA) held on to first place in what was a dramatic Men’s Free Skating event. [Adam Rippon](#) (USA) took the silver medal and the bronze went to Russia’s [Sergei Voronov](#). All three men qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Chen landed a quad Lutz-triple Lutz and another quad Lutz in his program to ‘Mao’s Last Dancer’ and ‘Sacre du printemps’, but made several mistakes on other jumps, including falling on a quad flip and doubling jumps.

The Four Continents champion was ranked second in the Free Skating with 171.76 points and remained in first place on 275.88 points.

“I am very disappointed with today,” Chen said. “I am glad that I was able to qualify a spot for the Final. I definitely need to address all the problems that I had today and make sure that I’ll fix it for the future. I have to go back and re-evaluate what was going on.”

Rippon’s routine to ‘The Arrival of the Birds’ and ‘O’ featured two triple Axels, a triple flip-triple loop combination as well as six triples, two-level four spins and level-four steps.

His only mistake came when he almost fell on a downgraded quad Lutz. He dislocated his right shoulder on that fall but was able to pop it back in and continue.

The NHK Trophy silver medallist won the Free Skating with 177.41 and racked up 266.45 points overall.

“I am happy that I was able to get through my performance today,” the 2016 United States champion said. “I dislocated my shoulder on the first jump. But you know what, I love drama and so I said, ‘I can

make it through this'. I wanted to show my character, that I'm really tough and that I'm up for the challenge of anything, including the Olympic Games."

Skating to 'Sarabande Suite', Voronov hit a quad toe-triple toe, another, albeit shaky, quad toe and four triples, but almost fell on a triple Axel. The two-time Russian champion earned 169.98 points for the Free Skating for a total of 266.45 points.

"It was not easy," the 30-year-old said. "I noticed that something had happened, there was a delay and I only can wish Daniel Samohin a quick recovery. It was a distraction, but I was able to deal with the difficulties and I'm looking forward to the Grand Prix Final."

World bronze medalist [Boyang Jin](#) (CHN) came fourth on 243.06 points and also made it to the Grand Prix Final as the sixth and last qualifier. [Han Yan](#) (CHN) finished fifth (228.33 points) and Ross Miner (USA) completed the top six (219.62 points).

[Daniel Samohin](#) (ISR) dislocated his left shoulder when falling on a quad Salchow and had to withdraw during the Free Skating. Earlier today, [Maxim Kovtun](#) (RUS) withdrew after injuring his right foot.

Shibutani/Shibutani (USA) win Short Dance with new personal best score

Two-time world medalists [Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani](#) (USA) won the Short Dance and set a new personal best score. The 2014 World champions [Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte](#) of Italy came second and Russia's [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) were third.

Dancing to mambo, cha and samba, Shibutani/Shibutani produced excellent twizzles and intricate footwork, earning a level four for the Rhumba Pattern, the Pattern step sequence, the curve lift and the twizzles. The 2016 world silver medalists posted a new personal best of 79.18 points.

"We were really happy with our performance today," Maia Shibutani said. "The crowd was absolutely incredible for the whole event. We really felt we did a great job, embracing their energy and putting it into our performance.

"Since Cup of Russia, we've been working really hard on all the details for this program and it was another strong outing for us when it comes to the levels, so it's really great to see that progress that we've made when it comes to the performance."

Cappellini/Lanotte's dance to cha and samba was highlighted by well-synchronized twizzles and a rotational lift. The 2017 European silver medalists picked up a level four for the twizzles and the lift, but the Rhumba pattern was graded a level one and the Pattern step sequence a level two. The 2014 world champions scored 72.70 points.

"Luca and I are very pleased with our performance tonight," Cappellini told the post-event press conference. "We felt it was a definite improvement from NHK [Trophy in Osaka]. We are not quite as pleased with our score. We lost a lot of technical points and we are not sure why yet."



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Sinitsina/Katsalapov completed level-four twizzles and a level-four lift as well, but the Muscovites, too, had only a level one for the Rhumba pattern. They earned 68.72 points.

“We are pleased with our performance,” Sinitsina said. “We’ve worked a lot since our Grand Prix in Japan and there is progress. We felt we performed much better here. We’ve worked on the technical side, on the choreography, basically on everything.”

[Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro](#) (RUS) placed fourth on 64.20 points followed by [Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier](#) (CAN) on 64.07 points. The 2014 world junior champions [Kaitlyn Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) were ranked sixth (62.15 points).

Satoko Miyahara (JPN) takes lead in Ladies Short Program

The 2015 world silver medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) of Japan took a narrow lead in the Ladies Short Program. Teammate [Kaori Sakamoto](#) finished second ahead of Canada’s 2017 world bronze medalist [Gabrielle Daleman](#).

Performing to ‘Memoirs of a Geisha’ and wearing a pink dress, reminiscent of the famous Japanese cherry blossom, Miyahara hit a triple loop, double Axel, level-four spins and footwork, but stepped out of the back end of her triple Lutz-triple toe combination.

The Japanese champion scored a season’s best with 70.72 points.

“I am very happy to get these points, but I am not really satisfied with today’s performance. I still have a lot of things to do and I want to work on them more,” the 19-year-old said.

“My condition and my feeling of skating is getting better and better day by day.”

Sakamoto’s program to ‘Moonlight Sonata’ included a triple flip-triple toe combination, a triple loop, double Axel and two level-four spins. The 2017 World Junior bronze medalist set a new personal best score with 69.40 points.

“Today I was not so nervous and I did a good job. In Russia (at the Rostelecom Cup) I did a good Short Program, but the Free Skating was not good enough. This time, I want to do my best in the long program,” the 17-year-old said.

Daleman opened her routine to ‘Habanera’ from Bizet’s ‘Carmen’ with a big triple toe-triple toe that was worth 10.50 points alone, but she stumbled out of her triple Lutz.

The reigning world bronze medalist recovered to land a double Axel and picked up a level four for her step sequence and two spins to earn 68.08 points.

“Today’s program is definitely a step up performance-wise,” the 2017 Four Continents silver medalist said. “I worked very hard on my performance side. The technical side, there is a lot of improvement to

be done, so I'm ready to go home the day after tomorrow to work harder and be prepared for the next time."

[Bradie Tennell](#) (USA) is in fourth place on 67.01 points, a personal best score. [Serafima Sakhanovich](#) (RUS) follows in fifth on 66.28 points. The 2016 world silver medalist [Ashley Wagner](#) (USA) underrotated two jumps to finish sixth (64.12 points).

[Polina Tsurskaya](#) (RUS) fell on her triple loop and stumbled on her double Axel to place eighth (63.20 points).

Bridgestone Skate America concludes on Sunday with the Free Dance and Ladies Free Skating.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events and culminates in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya, Japan, in December. The top six skaters/couples in each discipline qualify for the Final. The global prize money for the Grand Prix is US\$ 272,000.

Full entry lists and results of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2017/18 are available [here](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#GPFigure #FigureSkating**.

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