PRESS RELEASE ISU.ORG



February 14, 2022 Beijing, China

Women's top Skaters get in action in Beijing Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games

The ROC trio of <u>Kamila Valieva*</u>, <u>Anna Shcherbakova</u> and <u>Alexandra Trusova</u> leads the charge to the Women's podium as the Figure Skating competition continues Tuesday at the Beijing Capital Indoor Stadium.

Quads and triple Axels

Women's Figure Skating has made a huge leap forward technically in this Olympic cycle. Until now, the triple Axel was a rare appearance at Olympic Winter Games and the most difficult jump done by women: Midori Ito (JPN) and Mao Asada (JPN) have landed it on Olympic ice and Mirai Nagasu (USA) was the only one to show it in PyeongChang 2018.

In Beijing not only the triple Axel, but even quadruple jumps are expected in the Women's event – and by more than one Skater. Valieva, Shcherbakova and Trusova (ROC) all have quads in their arsenal. Valieva became the first one to land a quad at the Olympic Games – she did even two clean ones, a Salchow and toeloop - in the Team Event in Beijing 2022. Shcherbakova and Trusova have even planned the quad Lutz and flip.

However, these talented young Skaters not only can jump, but show many more skills in their programs and can realize the first Olympic podium sweep in the Women's competition.

Kamila Valieva is the reigning European Champion and holds the highest scores for the Women's Short Program, for the Free Skating and overall. Her programs to "In Memoriam" in the Short Program and "Bolero" in the Free Skating show off her elegance and flexibility.

Reigning ISU World Champion Anna Shcherbakova has been gaining momentum since her successful Free Skating at the ISU European Championships last month in Tallinn (EST), while "Russian Rocket" Alexandra Trusova aims at landing five quadruple jumps in Beijing in her Free Skating. Shcherbakova's programs are set to "Dangerous Affairs" for the Short Program and "Master and Margarita" in the Free Skating, while Trusova picked "Frida" and "Cruella".

Who can challenge the ROC women?

A group of talented young women are up to challenge the favorites. Among these, <u>Kaori Sakamoto</u> (JPN) shone in the Team Event with a perfect Free Skating - with the misleading music title "I Have No More Fight Left In Me" - and a new personal best score. 2018 World silver medalist <u>Wakaba Higuchi</u> (JPN) has a triple Axel and put out a strong Short Program in the Team Event. 2020 Youth Olympic Games Champion <u>Young You</u> (KOR) is another Skater who comes with a triple Axel to Beijing. <u>Alysa Liu</u> (USA) is the first woman to include a triple Axel and a quadruple jump (Lutz) in one program and plans for now the Axel in her Free Skating.

Others to watch include <u>Loena Hendrickx</u> (BEL), <u>Karen Chen</u> (USA), U.S. Champion <u>Mariah Bell</u>, 2022 ISU Four Continents bronze medalist <u>Yelim Kim</u> (KOR), <u>Ekaterina Kurakova</u> (POL) and <u>Anastasiia Gubanova</u> (GEO).

^{*}Following the hearing of the Ad hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in the arbitration procedures relating to Figure Skater Kamila Valieva (ROC), the International Skating Union (ISU) duly noted and will respect the ruling namely that the provisional suspension of Kamila Valieva remains lifted. Further to the IOC Executive Board Decision and the IOC request, the International Skating Union (ISU) for reasons of fairness allows a

PRESS RELEASE ISU.ORG



25th competitor to participate in the Women Single Skating Free Skating of the competition on February 17, in case Ms. Valieva is ranked in the first 24 of the Short Program on February 15. <u>Further information on ISU website</u>.

Stay connected with the ISU in Beijing:

ISU Event webpage: Figure Skating Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games

Schedule Results

(gI) INTERNATIONAL General Media Information

Press Packs
Press Releases
Biographies

Skating in Beijing: Subscribe to our <u>daily Newsletter</u> to get the latest news from the

Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games

SKATING IN BEZING

Podcast: The Ice Skating Podcast – Olympic Special Editions

THE SHATENS

What's next? Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Women's Short Program, 18:00 (local time)

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Women's Free Skating, 18:00 (local time)

Social Media:



Skating ISU



@isuskating



@ISUFigureSkating / #UpAgain



weibo.com/isuofficial



@ISUFigureSkating



@ISU Figure

About the International Skating Union

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 <u>isu.org</u>.