

## Press release

07 December 2017

**ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18:  
ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final  
ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final  
Day One**

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final kicked off Thursday with exciting competition in the Junior and Senior categories in Nagoya (JPN). The events feature the top six skaters/couples in each category from the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series.

**Broken lace doesn't stop Savchenko/Massot (GER) to take Pairs Short Program**

Unfazed by equipment and costume failures, World silver medalists [Aljona Savchenko/Bruno Massot](#) of Germany took the Pairs Short Program. Russia's European Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) less than a point behind in second while reigning World Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) of China settled for third place.

Savchenko/Massot opened their entertaining Lindy Hop program to 'That Man' with a big triple twist and a side by side triple Salchow and a throw triple Lutz. "When I landed the jump I felt that the skating boot was soft and when I did the throw I was sure that it was broken. I told her and she just said, 'go, go'," Massot revealed. The European silver medalists went on to produce four level-four elements – lift, footwork, death spiral and pair combination spin to earn a season's best of 79.43 points. "I liked best today that we did all elements clean, in spite of Bruno's lace being broken and my dress being broken. The zipper of my dress broke. We fought until the end," Savchenko noted.

Tarasova/Morozov's performance to Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 featured a huge triple twist, a side by side triple toeloop as well as a throw triple loop. The World bronze medalists picked up a level four for the twist, death spiral, pair combination spin, lift and footwork and scored 78.83 points. "We like how we did our short program today, we have good emotions about it. In general, we did everything well. Maybe to the end of the program we got tired a little and that what influenced on our scores that we are not the first now. The first half of the program was really good. But now everything depends on the free program," Morozov explained.

Sui/Han had to overcome a shaky start into their "Hallelujah" program when he crashed on the side by side triple toe, but recovered to produce an excellent throw triple flip, triple twist and three more level-four elements. The current World Champions picked up 75.82 points. "Because of my failure (fall on triple toe), I am really not happy with today's performance. I am trying to look back what I could have been better, but I couldn't believe this. Last time we had that many mistakes was at the Grand Prix in America two years ago where I failed like three times," Han told the press.

2014 Olympic silver medalists [Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov](#) (RUS) finished fourth on 73.15 points. She fell on a crossover, but recovered to land the throw and the triple toe. The two-time World Champions [Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford](#) (CAN) are currently sitting in fifth on 72.18 point while [Xiaoyu Yu/Hao Zhang](#) (CHN) are in sixth on 70.15 points.

### **Nathan Chen (USA) wins Men's Short Program**

[Nathan Chen](#) (USA) took the lead in Men's Short Program over Japan's homecrowd hero [Shoma Uno](#). [Mikhail Kolyada](#) of Russia finished third.

Skating to 'Nemesis' by Benjamin Clementine, Chen nailed a quadruple Lutz-triple toe combination and a somewhat shaky quadruple flip as well as a triple Axel. The reigning Four Continents Champion collected a level four for two spins and his step sequence to score 103.32 points. "It's great to feel that you are in the lead. Both of my quads were a little bit shaky that was because I was nervous and little stressed. I will focus on tomorrow and for the future trust myself use energy to put on the show as best as I can," Chen said. "I'm excited for free program tomorrow. I didn't do my best at Skate America so I can redeem myself. I have to make sure I calm myself tonight and sleep well so I can start fresh tomorrow and focus on one quad at a time," the defending ISU Grand Prix Final silver medalist added.

Uno pulled off a quadruple flip, quadruple toeloop-triple toeloop and level-four spins and footwork, but he went down on the triple Axel. The 2017 World silver medalist earned 101.51 points. "I just thought I made "new type of mistake" today. The triple Axel is the jump I know I can land. When I made a mistake, this is not like 'I felt so disappointed'. But I felt like 'let's get this done better next time'. I was not so surprised by 101 points, but I was more surprised by two points deduction. I only fell once, and I don't think anything fell from my costume. I didn't touch the wall either. So I only can think of overtime being another deduction factor. I changed the music a bit and started today's program slightly earlier," the ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalist explained.

Kolyada crashed on his opening quadruple Lutz but rallied back to complete a quadruple toeloop-triple toeloop combination, a triple Axel and strong spins and footwork. The Russian Champion was awarded 99.22 points. "A shame I missed the Lutz, but the jump is still not consistent. I haven't been doing it as long as the toeloop in competition. In practice it has been going well, especially in the past one and a half weeks", the European bronze medalist said. "It (his first Grand Prix Final) is just like another competition, I feel no different," he added.

[Jason Brown](#) (USA), who stepped out of the back end of his triple flip-triple toe combination, is sitting in fourth on 89.02 points. [Sergei Voronov](#) (RUS) almost fell on the triple Axel to come fifth (87.77 points) and [Adam Rippon](#) (USA) underrotated a triple Lutz to finish sixth (86.19 points.)

### **Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA) edge Virtue/Moir (CAN) for lead in Short Dance**

Two-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) of France edged Canada's reigning World Champions [Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir](#) in the Short Dance and lead by 0.54 points.

World bronze medalists [Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani](#) (USA) follow in third place.

Papadakis/Cizeron put out a strong dance to Samba, Rhumba and Samba to Ed Sheeran songs and collected a level four for the Rhumba pattern, the twizzles, the partial step sequence and their straight line lift as well as a level three for the side by side footwork. The current World silver medalists received twelve perfect 10.00 in the components and posted a new personal best with 82.07 points. “It was a really, really good performance, the best of the season. When we got off the ice we said we’ll be happy, because we did the best we could have done. In China (at Cup of China) we were very focused and very clean and did not ‘live’ the program so much. In France (at Internationaux de France) it was the opposite, the program was lively, but we didn’t focus so much on the levels. Here now everything came together. We were focused on our steps and at the same time we very into the performance,” Papadakis shared. “It feels good, I like being first. But we know we have to be very focused for the free dance, because the points are really close,” added Cizeron.

Virtue/Moir’s characteristic Samba, Rhumba and Cha Cha set to ‘Sympathy for the Devil’, ‘Hotel California’ and ‘Oye Como Va’ was highlighted by precise footwork and a rotational lift. The 2014 Olympic Champions earned the same levels as their French rivals to score 81.53 points. The judges awarded them eleven perfect 10.00 in the component scores. “The plan is to peak in February, we are on track. We are pleased with our performance, it is a step up from the Grand Prix circuit and we’re looking to build up,” Virtue commented. “There’s always pressure, whether we’re defending or chasing a title again this is a fresh season and we know that we have to be our best. With the Olympics, everyone is coming out strong,” she continued.

Dancing to Mambo, Cha Cha and Samba, Shibutani/Shibutani produced four level-four elements, but the Rhumba pattern was rated a level two. The brother-and-sister team earned 78.09 points. I’m beating myself up over the mistake on the twizzle. That’s a mistake that I never make. I thought the performance was really strong, but overall we made a lot of good progress since Skate America. If we had done the twizzles the way that we’re capable of doing them, the score would be even better,” Alex Shibutani told the press.

[Madison Hubbell/ Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) finished in fourth place on 74.81 points while [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) and [Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte](#) (ITA) follow closely in fifth and sixth place with 74.36 points and 74.24 points respectively.

### **Panfilova/Rylov (RUS) capture narrow lead in Junior Pairs Short Program**

[Appollinariia Panfilova/Dmitry Rylov](#) of Russia edged out World Junior Champions [Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor](#) of Australia for a narrow lead in the Junior Pairs Short Program. Russia’s [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) are currently ranked third.

Panfilova/Rylov’s program to “Black Velvet” featured a triple twist, the required side by side double Lutz, a solid throw triple loop and a level-four death spiral, lift and pair combination spin. The team from Perm picked up a season’s best of 60.81 points. “It was the best short program of the season so

far,” Panfilova said. “I was not nervous at all, very calm and it felt easy to skate here in Japan. We have been working on the quad twist, but it is not consistent yet, so we won’t show it in the free program yet,” she continued.

Alexandrovskaya/Windsor turned in a solid performance to “Paint It Black”, producing a triple twist and three level-four elements, but she touched down on the throw triple loop. The World Junior Champions earned 60.26 points. “We are pretty happy with it. Obviously, we made a mistake on the throw but everything else was pretty good,” Windsor commented. He is pleased with their progress this season so far: “We are just going to take it step by step by the moment trying not to think of the Olympics too much. Our preparation has been pretty good and we have been skating pretty good, too.”

Skating to “Cloud Atlas”, Pavliuchenko/Khodykin landed a triple twist and side by side double Lutz, but she went down on the throw triple loop. The team from Moscow had a level four for five elements and scored 59.51 points. “I was a little nervous. There were many spectators, but on the other hand I like it when there are spectators. I rushed it (the throw triple loop) and you never should do that. There is room for improvement,” Pavliuchenko told the press.

World Junior bronze medalists [Yumeng Gao/Zhong Xie](#) (CHN) are not far behind in fourth place on 59.47 points followed by [Anastasia Poluianova/Dmitry Sopot](#) (RUS), who have 57.28 points. World Junior silver medalists [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii](#) (RUS) finished sixth on 55.92 points.

### **Alexei Krasnozhon (USA) grabs lead in Junior Men Short Program with personal best**

[Alexei Krasnozhon](#) (USA) grabbed the lead in the Junior Men’s Short Program. [Alexey Erokhov](#) of Russia in second place trails the leader by almost three points. Japan’s [Mitsuki Sumoto](#) rose to the occasion to place third in the first segment of the competition.

Krasnozhon’s performance to ‘Khorobushko’ was highlighted by a triple Axel, triple Lutz, a rare triple flip-triple loop combination as well as by three level-four spins. The two-time ISU Junior Grand Prix Finalist posted a new personal best of 81.33 points. “I tried to perform at the best level possible in each element, and enjoyed the performance in front of a big crowd in Japan, which is a rare opportunity. I’m happy that I in first place now, but the short program doesn’t mean anything, because there are only six strong skaters and free program is more important,” the 17-year-old U.S. Junior Champion noted.

Erokhov produced a triple Axel, triple flip-triple toe, triple Lutz and two-level four spins in his routine to ‘Lighthouse’ by Patrick Watson to earn 78.39 points. “It was not a bad performance, but not the best I could do. There were some small issues, like the change foot camel spin that was only a level three. Tomorrow I want to show everything, including three quads,” the Muscovite commented.

Skating to ‘Singin’ in the Rain’, Sumoto completed a triple Axel, triple Lutz and a triple flip-triple toe combination to set a personal best of 77.10 points. “I have been struggling with my triple Axel during practice but I was very happy to land it in competition. I was able to not think too much, just to

concentrate. I was not so nervous. I could hear the audience cheering for me, the loudest cheer I have ever had, and I was able to change that into my power,” the Riga Cup Champion shared.

[Makar Ignatov](#) (RUS) is currently ranked fourth on 75.78 points. [Camden Pulkinen](#) (USA) came fifth (70.90 points) and [Andrew Torgashev](#) (USA) is in sixth place (64.73 points).

### **Alexandra Trusova leads Russian sweep in Junior Ladies Short Program**

Russia’s [Alexandra Trusova](#) prevailed in what was high-level Junior Ladies Short Program with six clean performances. Trusova’s teammates [Alena Kostornaia](#) and [Anastasia Tarankova](#), who also train with her under the same coaches, came second and third in the Short Program.

Skating to ‘Big Spender’ and ‘Jumpin’ Jack’, Trusova reeled off a triple flip-triple loop, a triple Lutz, double Axel as well as three level-four spins and level-four footwork. The 13-year-old from Moscow posted a new personal best with 73.25 points. “I was hoping to get over 70 points, but I didn’t know what the score would be. I never had such a high score,” the Muscovite said. “At the end, my music is fun and the audience clapped along and I wanted to show even more emotions. My spins could be faster and there is always something to improve,” added Trusova who wants to show the quadruple Salchow in the Free Skating: “I hope to do finally a clean one.”

Kostornaia landed a triple flip-triple toe, triple Lutz and difficult spins in her Tango program. The 14-year-old set a new personal best with 71.65 points. “I was a little nervous only during the warm-up which is just before the competitions because it is my first so serious competition. In general, I did everything I could. I was ready to get such scores because I work really hard. It is the result of our coaches’ work and I’m just a performer. Now I want to skate my free program as well as I was skating today,” the JGP Baltic Cup Champion said.

Tarakanova’s performance to ‘Fly’ and ‘Experience’ by Ludovico Einaudi featured a triple flip-triple toe, triple Lutz and a double Axel. The Cup of Austria Champion picked up a personal best of 67.90 points. “I did all my elements so I was looking forward to the points, maybe more up to 68 or 69 today. But 67.9 is my best score. I would like to skate more relaxed in free skating and to make the crowd enjoy my skating. I was first to skate in the team of Russia so that made me more nervous,” the 13-year-old shared.

[Rika Kihira](#) (JPN) placed fourth on 66.82 points. [Daria Panenkova](#) (RUS) is not far behind in fifth on 65.65 points followed by [Sofia Samodurova](#) (RUS) on 65.01 points.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final continues Friday with the Junior Short Dance, Junior Pairs and Junior Men’s Free Skating, the Ladies Short Program and the Men’s Free Skating.

All relevant information such as entry lists and results, biographies, planned program content, quick quotes of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating



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Final are available on the ISU website [here](#). The ISU Junior Grand Prix Final is streamed live on the [ISU Junior Grand Prix channel](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#GPFigure** and **#JGPFigure2017 #FigureSkating**.

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