

PRESS CONFERENCE

Men, after Short Program

Javier Fernandez (ESP) 1st after the Short Program

I think I did a good performance as (coach) Brian (Orser) said. We're not looking for perfection, but for a good program. I like the ice the audience, it was supportive for Wednesday afternoon. A lot of people cannot get out of work, but the people that were on the rink were loud for every skater. It was a good day. I am looking forward to day of training tomorrow and then to the free program. (on not looking so solid in practice but putting out a strong performance) We are training in a small arena, so when we go into a big size arena we have to make arrangements, because when you're in a competition, we want to make everything bigger and bigger, but Brian and I just try to keep it normal as usual. We don't want to do anything differently. We love the ice, but we don't get too close to the corners, because we are not used to it. It is fixing those little mistakes that you can have, because you are on different ice, in a different arena, in a different competition and it has not been perfect all the time. You make these mistakes to make things better eventually. (On skating a "Charlie Chaplin" themed program again) The music itself is more dramatic than for the other program. It is a different kind of Charlie Chaplin. The one that I skated before was more romantic, funny. In the end, in the step sequence it (the current program) gets a bit more playful, like the other Chaplin (program). I like to see even with the same character you can be different, but it is still the same person. (On how he prepared for Europeans following his last international competition in November) I kept the same kind of training. We always try to keep it similar. After I got back to Toronto after Nationals we did more amount of programs in training, the rest was similar. We were trying to improve the programs, the jumps, every little thing. The only thing that changed was the amount of programs that we did every day.

Dmitri Aliev (RUS) 2nd after the Short Program

I am happy with the job I did but I did not do the quad Lutz and I am a bit upset about that. Overall I am satisfied with what I was able to show to the audience. I want to thank the audience and my home crowd and I felt their support and warmth. Tomorrow there is a practice day and rest, but the main work will come the day after tomorrow in the free program. I need to control myself. (on whether preparing for Europeans was harder or easier than in other events). Actually the two first two Grand Prix events were hard for me because I was injured, but I wanted to skate, especially since one of them was here at this same rink. This competition today was easier than the others, emotionally, from my feelings. I think the reason is that my foot did not bother me and I am sure it won't let me down. I feel ready and confident.

Deniss Vasiljevs (LAT) 3rd after the Short Program

I had a great time, I really enjoyed it. There are a lot of positive emotions. It brought me a lot of joy and pleasure to be here in this event. I am looking forward to the upcoming challenge in the free program. (on sitting in third) It feels good. I didn't expect that. It is pleasant, but it is not a big achievement yet.