



## PRESS CONFERENCE

Pairs, after Short Program

### **Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres (FRA) 1st after the Short Program**

Cipres: We are pretty happy about our performance today and about the result. It was not our best program, but Vanessa was injured for two weeks at our Nationals and we did not compete since the Trophée de France (in November). It was a bit long without competitions. Today it was a comeback, but we still have a lot of things to improve. (on whether it is better to compete at Europeans or to skip it in order to prepare for the Olympic Games like Aljona Savchenko/Bruno Massot decided not to compete at Europeans) It is not our business, if they are here or not. We are here. For us, competitions are more important than practice.

James: (on her injury) This happened when we were practicing for Nationals in Paris. We were doing our long program. Another couple got kind of in our way, we decided to do a quad anyways, we probably shouldn't have. So I had a bad fall and my shoulder was dislocated. So I took two weeks off for it to be better. It's still a little sore in certain things like the death spiral, but it's much better anyways. I'm still confident on the quad. It was one of these things, we shouldn't have done it, it wasn't the right curve, it wasn't the right timing. It was just a freak mistake and silly, but you learn from them. We won't be doing that again. But I am much better. (on skating right after Tarasova/Morozov who made mistakes) We try not to watch the score but with their score we obviously knew they made mistakes. They always have a high score. But either way, coming into this competition, whether they skated well or not, our goal was to skate how we skated. Tomorrow is another day and I'm sure they'll be strong and we'll we have to pull up our game every time. Everyone here is very strong. It is the European Championships and it's at a very high level. Whatever happens tomorrow we're going to have to be our best, as always.

### **Natalia Zabiako/Alexander Enbert (RUS) 2nd after the Short Program**

Enbert: We are pleased with the performance. We didn't see the protocols yet, but it felt good. Thank you a lot to the fans for their support. It was nice and powerful. We now go back to the hotel in good spirits and will have a rest. (on receiving a level four for five elements) We are very pleased about it if it is like that. I can't say how we do it. We are trying keep working and improve everything, from the competitions and practices and we work with videos. It is just our usual work and I can't say that we are doing something special. We're just trying to improve each time. (on whether it is better to compete at Europeans or to skip it in order to prepare for the Olympic Games like Aljona Savchenko/Bruno Massot decided not to compete at Europeans) We do the same run throughs in practice, only without spectators. However, for me competing is better than training just at home with nobody watching and not hearing anything. (on whether they feel affected by not being a 100 percent sure yet they can compete at the Olympic Games) Well, we are here now which isn't bad. We prepared for Europeans and right now we are thinking only about this competition.

### **Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov (RUS) 3<sup>rd</sup> after the Short Program**

Klimov: The performance was good except for the serious mistake, the score not so much. The ice is good the audience is good as always they welcomed us very well when we took the ice. Thank you to them for that. (on whether it is better to compete at Europeans or to skip it in order to prepare for the Olympic Games like Aljona Savchenko/Bruno Massot decided not to compete at Europeans) We are here that says enough about our choice. How could we miss Europeans in Moscow it doesn't happen too often.

Stolbova: (on whether they feel affected by not being a 100 percent sure yet they can compete at the Olympic Games) If we think about it or not it doesn't change much.



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