

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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**Media Advisory**

**Lausanne, January 23, 2003**

## **2003 European Figure Skating Championships Malmö, Sweden**

### **Day 3**

#### **Pairs, Free Program**

The first medals were awarded in the Pairs event. Sarah Abitbol/Stephane Bernadis (FRA), who stood in third place following the Short Program, were first to skate in the final flight. Abitbol made mistakes on the side by side triple jumps, doubling the toeloop and singling the Axel. The team then pulled themselves together to produce a throw triple Salchow, a triple twist and strong lifts, but Abitbol touched down with her hand on the throw triple loop later in their entertaining "Addams Family" routine. The French received marks up to 5.5 for technical merit and up to 5.7 for presentation. They took the lead at this time, but the three Russian couples were still to come. Julia Obertas/Alexei Sokolov skated next. They struggled with the side by side jumps as well. Both stepped out of the triple toeloop and Obertas, who has been sick with a cold the past few days, singled the Axel. The Russians recovered and landed a throw triple flip (which is very rare in pair skating) and a throw triple loop.

Then defending champions Tatiana Totmianina/Maxim Marinin took the ice. The couple seemed calm and confident, and they pulled out a perfect performance. Their "Cotton Club" program featured a side by side triple Salchow and triple-double toeloop combination, a gorgeous throw triple loop, throw triple Salchow and a very synchronized side by side spin. Totmianina/Marinin earned marks ranging from 5.6 to 5.8 for technical merit and from 5.6 to 5.9 for presentation.

Overnight leaders Maria Petrova/Alexei Tikhonov skated last. The 2000 World Champions started strongly into their routine set to Sergei Rakhmaninov's "Symphonic Dances", hitting a side by side triple toeloop, double Axel-double toeloop sequence and a throw triple loop, but then they ran into trouble. Petrova two-footed both throws (loop and Salchow), and Tikhonov aborted the carry lift. The team still managed to finish on a high note with a strong one-armed lift. The Russians received marks up to 5.6 for technical merit and up to 5.7 for presentation and slipped to third place. Totmianina/Marinin took their second title and Abitbol/Bernadis their second silver. The podium was exactly the same as last year in Lausanne.

Poland's Dorota Zagorska/Mariusz Siudek pulled up from fifth to fourth place with a strong performance that included side by side triple toeloops, a triple twist and a throw triple Salchow. Obertas/Sokolov dropped one spot to finish fifth in their first Europeans as a couple.

The 2003 European Championships continue tomorrow with the Original Dance and the Ladies' Free Program.

Full results are also directly available on the ISU Internet site on [www.isu.org](http://www.isu.org)

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## 2003 European Figure Skating Championships

### Pairs

<b>FPL.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nat.</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>SP</b>	<b>FS</b>
1	Tatiana TOTMIANINA / Maxim MARININ	RUS	2.0	2	1
2	Sarah ABITBOL / Stephane BERNADIS	FRA	3.5	3	2
3	Maria PETROVA / Alexei TIKHONOV	RUS	3.5	1	3
4	Dorota ZAGORSKA / Mariusz SIUDEK	POL	6.5	5	4
5	Julia OBERTAS / Alexei SOKOLOV	RUS	7.0	4	5
6	Katerina BERANKOVA / Otto DLABOLA	CZE	9.0	6	6
7	Tatiana VOLOSOZHAR / Petro KHARCHENKO	UKR	11.0	8	7
8	Nicole NOENNIG / Matthias BLEYER	GER	12.5	9	8
9	Eva-Maria FITZE / Rico REX	GER	12.5	7	9
10	Tatiana CHUVAEVA / Dmitri PALAMARCHUK	UKR	15.0	10	10
11	Maria GUERASSIMENKO / Vladimir FUTAS	SVK	16.5	11	11
12	Olga BOGUSLAVSKA / Andrei BROVENKO	LAT	18.5	13	12
13	Diana RENNİK / Aleksei SAKS	EST	19.0	12	13