

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS: CHEMIN DE PRIMEROSE 2 CH 1007 LAUSANNE SWITZERLAND
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Media Advisory

Lausanne, January 24, 2003

2003 European Figure Skating Championships Malmö, Sweden

Day 5

Men, Short Program

The Men were the last ones to start their competition in Malmö. The Qualifying Round was cancelled as there were only 31 entries.

Two-time European Champion Evgeni Plushenko of Russia captured the Short Program ahead of Brian Joubert (FRA) and his teammate Ilia Klimkin.

Plushenko went for a quad-triple combination right at the beginning of his program to Albinoni's "Adagio", but his blade got caught in the ice and he wasn't able to take off for the second jump. The Olympic silver medalist recovered to land a triple Axel, a triple Lutz out of footwork and fast paced steps. The performance earned him marks ranging from 5.4 to 5.5 for required elements and from 5.8 to 5.9 for presentation.

"There was a little hole in the ice, it was very unexpected", Plushenko explained. "The quad toe itself was a good jump. I'm pleased with the rest of my program, I did everything else well."

Skating to techno music "Time" by Pink Floyd, Joubert also had bad luck with his quad-triple toeloop combination and fell, but he completed a triple Axel, a triple Flip and put on a great show in his footwork. The judges awarded the 18-year-old marks up to 5.5 for required elements and up to 5.9 for presentation. "I didn't have enough speed going into the combination. I'll land it in the Free Skating", the reigning European bronze medalist commented. "I'm a bit nervous, I want to repeat last year's result and that's not easy. The Free Program is easier for me, because it's a fresh start after the Short Program."

Klimkin hit a high quadruple toeloop as the first jump of his combination but missed the second, a triple toeloop. The landing of his triple Axel was wobbly, but the 1999 World Junior Champion got extra applause for his excellent camel spins and also nailed a solid triple flip. The Muscovite picked up marks as high as 5.5 for required elements and as high as 5.8 for presentation. "I'm satisfied with my skating, it was alright", Klimkin told the press. "This part of the competition was not as hard as I thought it would be. I think I lost my concentration for the second jump in my combination, I relaxed."

2001 European bronze medalist Stanick Jeannette (FRA) is currently standing in fourth place. His entertaining program to Jazz music featured a triple Axel-double toeloop combination, a triple Lutz and original spins. 2002 World Junior bronze medalist Stanislav Timchenko (RUS) also delivered a solid program that contained a triple Axel-triple toeloop combination and good footwork. Switzerland's Stephane Lambiel thrilled the crowd with his trademark spins, but went down on his quadruple toeloop attempt. He came in sixth.

Ice Dancing, Free Dance

The Ice Dancing event concluded with the Free Dance. Reigning World Champions Irina Lobacheva/Ilia Averbukh of Russia claimed their first European title. Albena Denkova/ Maxim Stavyiski made history by capturing the silver medal – the first figure skating medal for Bulgaria. Tatiana Navka/Roman Kostomarov (RUS) settled for the bronze.

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To the delight of the audience, the Ice Dancing couples presented a wide range of styles in their programs.

First to skate in the final flight were Denkova/Stavyiski. The Bulgarians had chosen an Egyptian theme and music. Denkova portrayed a snake that charmed a pharao (Stavyiski). Their dance featured difficult lifts and footwork, executed close together. Their marks were as high as 5.8 for both technical merit/required elements and presentation. Then Winkler/Lohse (GER) took on to the ice in green-silver outfits that reflected their theme "Energy". Their dance kept building until Lohse took an unexpected fall going into the diagonal footwork.

Overnight leaders Lobacheva/Averbukh were next to skate. They were dressed in neon-yellow costumes, fitting their "Rock'n'Roll Medley". The crowd was with them the second the music started, and the Rock'n'Roll took off right away. Averbukh startled the audience with a spectacular leap-frog over his partner, and the couple drew extra applause for their difficult lifts and intricate footwork at high speed. At the end of the program, Averbukh remained on his knees on the ice for a few more seconds, shaking his fists in triumph, then he got up and hugged his wife. The crowd gave them a standing ovation. When the marks came up, the Russians knew they had the title. They earned marks ranging from 5.5 to 5.8 for technical merit/required elements and from 5.7 to two 6.0 for presentation.

Elena Grushina/Ruslan Goncharov skated immediately after the Russians and delivered an inspiring performance to "Quixote" by Bond. Navka/Kostomarov skated last. Their oriental dance to "The Feeling Begins" by Peter Gabriel impressed with interesting lifts in spread eagle positions and exquisite choreography. However, Kostomarov lost a small piece of his costume that had come loose and felt distracted by that. The team received marks ranging from 5.3 to 5.8 for technical merit/required elements and from 5.4 to 5.8 for presentation.

"When we thought about staying in for another year or not, we wanted to win like this. Not winning barely, but with 6,0s and a standing ovation", Averbukh said, smiling. "It was wonderful. The audience carried us throughout the whole program. We worked a lot, because we didn't skate so well in our last two competitions", he went on. "We still have a lot to improve. We want to have more speed and to skate cleaner. It's hard to do all these steps at high speed. As World Champions, we're the leaders of the sport. We want ice dancing to go back to dance again. Ice dancers should do things that single skaters can't do."

Denkova/Stavyiski were thrilled about their silver medal. "It's the first medal for us and for Bulgaria", Denkova explained. "We're very proud and so excited to be here. We want to thank our coach (Alexei Gorshkov) and our choreographer (Sergei Petukhov)."

Kostomarov commented: "Too bad that I had this problem with my costume. I think we would have had a chance to finish second if not for that. It's stupid, just because of a minor thing like this." However, the couple still was pleased to have won their first medal at European Championships.

The 2003 European Championships continue tomorrow with the Men Free Skating.

Full results are also directly available on the ISU Internet site on **www.isu.org**

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2003 European Figure Skating Championships

Men

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Evgeni PLUSHENKO	RUS	0.5	1	
2	Brian JOUBERT	FRA	1.0	2	
3	Ilia KLIMKIN	RUS	1.5	3	
4	Stanick JEANNETTE	FRA	2.0	4	
5	Stanislav TIMCHENKO	RUS	2.5	5	
6	Stephane LAMBIEL	SUI	3.0	6	
7	Stefan LINDEMANN	GER	3.5	7	
8	Vakhtang MURVANIDZE	GEO	4.0	8	
9	Silvio SMALUN	GER	4.5	9	
10	Gheorge CHIPER	ROM	5.0	10	
11	Kevin VAN DER PERREN	BEL	5.5	11	
12	Neil WILSON	GBR	6.0	12	
13	Frederic DAMBIER	FRA	6.5	13	
14	Ivan DINEV	BUL	7.0	14	
15	Sergei DAVYDOV	BLR	7.5	15	
16	Kristoffer BERNTSSON	SWE	8.0	16	
17	Karel ZELENKA	ITA	8.5	17	
18	Clemens JONAS	AUT	9.0	18	
19	Zoltan TOTH	HUN	9.5	19	
20	Gregor URBAS	SLO	10.0	20	
21	Hristo TURLAKOV	BUL	10.5	21	
22	Sergei SHILIAEV	BLR	11.0	22	
23	Sergei KOTOV	ISR	11.5	23	
24	Konstantin TUPIKOV	UKR	12.0	24	
25	Alexei KOZLOV	EST	12.5	25	
26	Bartosz DOMANSKI	POL	13.0	26	
27	Ari-Pekka NURMENKARI	FIN	13.5	27	
28	Aidas REKLYS	LTU	14.0	28	
29	Lukas KUZMIAK	SVK	14.5	29	
30	Aramais GRIGORIAN	ARM	15.0	30	
R	Tomas VERNER	CZE			

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Ice Dancing

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	CD	OD	FD
1	Irina LOBACHEVA / Ilia AVERBUKH	RUS	2.0	1	1	1
2	Albena DENKOVA / Maxim STAVIYSKI	BUL	4.0	2	2	2
3	Tatiana NAVKA / Roman KOSTOMAROV	RUS	6.0	3	3	3
4	Elena GRUSHINA / Ruslan GONCHAROV	UKR	8.0	4	4	4
5	Kati WINKLER / Rene LOHSE	GER	10.0	5	5	5
6	Galit CHAIT / Sergei SAKHNOVSKI	ISR	12.0	6	6	6
7	Isabelle DELOBEL / Olivier SCHOENFELDER	FRA	14.0	7	7	7
8	Federica FAIELLA / Massimo SCALI	ITA	16.0	8	8	8
9	Sylwia NOWAK / Sebastian KOLASINSKI	POL	18.0	9	9	9
10	Kristin FRASER / Igor LUKANIN	AZE	20.0	10	10	10
11	Natalia GUDINA / Alexei BELETSKI	ISR	22.0	11	11	11
12	Oksana DOMNINA / Maxim SHABALIN	RUS	24.6	12	13	12
13	Veronika MORAVKOVA / Jiri PROCHAZKA	CZE	25.4	13	12	13
14	Nora HOFFMANN / Attila ELEK	HUN	28.0	14	14	14
15	Julia GOLOVINA / Oleg VOIKO	UKR	30.0	15	15	15
16	Pamela O'CONNOR / Jonathan O'DOUGHERTY	GBR	32.6	16	17	16
17	Roxane PETETIN / Mathieu JOST	FRA	33.4	17	16	17
18	Marta PAOLETTI / Fabrizio PEDRAZZINI	ITA	36.0	18	18	18
19	Tatiana SINIAVER / Tornike TUKVADZE	GEO	38.0	19	19	19
20	Jessica HUOT / Juha VALKAMA	FIN	40.0	20	20	20
21	Agnieszka DULEJ / Slawomir JANICKI	POL	43.0	22	22	21
22	Marina TIMOFEIEVA / Evgeni STRIGANOV	EST	43.0	21	21	22