

## Press release

17 November 2017

### Lorentzen (NOR) and Kodaira (JPN) dominate sprints on Friday

Håvard Holmefjord Lorentzen (NOR) enjoyed “the best day of his career”, winning both the 500m and the 1000m on Day 1 of the ISU World Cup Speed Skating in Stavanger on Friday. In the Ladies’ tournament, Nao Kodaira (JPN) took gold in both the 500m and the 1000m, posting a fabulous track record in the shortest distance.

#### **Kodaira superb in Ladies 500m**

Kodaira blew away the rest of the field in the Ladies 500m when she stopped the clock at 37.08 seconds. The 31-year-old shaved 0.06s off the previous track record (37.14s) which she herself set last March.

After an unbeaten 500m season last year and an immaculate record in this World Cup season, Kodaira seems to get better every week. The sprinter was two tenths of a second faster than last week in Heerenveen, while most others were not able to beat their Heerenveen times.

Marsha Hudey (CAN) clinched her first career individual World Cup medal. The 27-year-old Canadian came second in 37.87s. Vanessa Herzog (AUT) took bronze in 37.96s.

Olympic Champion and world record holder Sang-Hwa Lee (KOR), who took silver twice last week, was exactly one second slower than Kodaira to finish in seventh place.

#### **Another masterclass in Ladies 1000m**

Kodaira continued her masterclass in sprinting with gold in the 1000m. The 31-year-old Japanese skater was almost half a second faster than compatriot Miho Takagi (JPN), who came second.

Kodaira clocked 1 minute, 14.33 seconds. In the 1000m she was slightly slower than last week in her victory in Heerenveen, but in her 500m race she had been faster.

“It’s smaller here and it felt like there was a slight tailwind,” she said.

In her current form, Kodaira should be able to attack both the 500m and the 1000m world records held by Sang-Hwa Lee (KOR) and Brittany Bowe (USA), respectively, when the World Cup series moves to high altitude tracks in Calgary (CAN) and Salt Lake City (USA) on the first weekends of December.

“I hope to be able to challenge the world record but we’ll have to wait and see. I have to stay focused on skating fast,” Kodaira said.



# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND  
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL [media@isu.ch](mailto:media@isu.ch)

“These were not the perfect races. I think I can still go faster.”

Takagi clocked 1:14.79 to take silver, while Heather Bergsma (USA) grabbed bronze in 1:15.04.

Bergsma bounced back from finishing in sixth place in both the 1000m and 1500m in Heerenveen.

“I try to be relaxed now, because I know it’s not there and the more I push for it, the harder it is,” she said.

“I just hope to make a step with each race that I do and so far that seems to be in the right direction. I guess we’ll see it tomorrow with the 1500m again.”

## **Close finish in Men’s 500m**

Hein Otterspeer (NED) looked to run away with his first career 500m gold but Håvard Holmefjord Lorentzen edged him out by 0.02 seconds in the final pairing.

After last weekend’s maiden World Cup victory in Heerenveen, Netherlands, Lorentzen confirmed his status as one of the big guns in the 500m on home soil. He finished in 34.64 seconds.

“It certainly feels better than last year. I hope I can be up there for the rest of the season,” he said.

Lorentzen did not feel any extra pressure skating in the final pairing on home ice.

“I don’t really have a lot of stress before races,” he said. “I did not feel any extra pressure either. I was in the final pairing last week too, and I’ll be in the final pairing again in today’s 1000m.”

Otterspeer had finished in 34.66s in the seventh of ten pairings. He ended up in second place, ahead of Artur Was (POL), who finished in 34.74s.

Despite missing the gold medal by just 0.02 seconds, the 29-year-old Dutchman was satisfied with his performance, having been hampered by injuries for years.

“It’s been a long time ago that I was able to skate a 24-second lap and it feels very good to be back this season,” he said.

“I’m not the youngest anymore and I’m glad that I’m able to show this level of speed skating again.”

Russian world record holder Pavel Kulizhnikov withdrew with a groin injury on competition day.

## **‘Best day in career’**

“The best day in my career, for sure”, said Lorentzen (NOR) after he added 1000m gold to his 500m victory on the first day of the World Cup Speed Skating weekend on home ice in Stavanger.

The 25-year-old started in the final paring versus Kai Verbij (NED). The race was close until the finish line. But Verbij was not able to use the last inner corner to pass his Norwegian competitor, who clocked 1 minute, 08.22 seconds.

Last week, in the Netherlands, the 1000m bronze was won by Lorentzen:

“In Heerenveen I was a bit too excited in the final 300m, when I saw Kjeld’s [Nuis] back on the back stretch. This week I kept cool, and kept watching my technique,” he said.

“I could hear Kai [Verbij] coming in the last corner and I just sat down and skated through.”

Lorentzen had never won a World Cup race in his career before last week, when he won in the 500m. Now he has three gold medals.

“I feel slightly stronger this season, that’s power and technique” he said.

“My strongest point as a speed skater is top-speed maintenance.”

Lorentzen did not want to celebrate too much yet, however:

“Nobody will remember this weekend when the Olympics come,” he concluded.

Verbij came second in 1:08.47. The 23-year-old Dutchman was satisfied about his race, considering that he did not have the best preparation, arriving for the Stavanger World Cup only last night:

“I’m satisfied. I knew the Lorentzen would be very strong. I thought I could catch him in the last 200 meters, but he was very fast in that final outer corner.

“It’s a pity to be second again, but this is the maximum for this moment.”

Verbij’s team mate Thomas Krol (NED) finished third in 1:08.57, ahead of World Champion Kjeld Nuis (NED), who finished fourth in 1:08.95.

Full [results and classifications](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#WCSpeedSkating** and **#SpeedSkating** and watch the live stream on the [ISU Skating Channel](#).

**For further information please contact:**

Selina Vanier

ISU Communications Coordinator

[media@isu.ch](mailto:media@isu.ch)

Tel: +41 21 612 66 66



# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND  
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL [media@isu.ch](mailto:media@isu.ch)

## **About ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2017/18 Series**

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating is a series of international Speed Skating competitions which takes place annually. The Series started in 1984 and usually consists of six or seven events including the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final. Skaters can earn points at each competition, and the skater who has the most points on a given distance at the end of the series is the World Cup winner of that distance. Skaters also cumulate Grand World Cup points each time they compete in a distance. During the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final, the Lady and the Man with the most Grand World Cup points is crowned the Grand World Cup winner.

The results on the individual distances in the World Cup ranking are the main qualifying method for the ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships.

A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season, for Men: 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, combined 5000 m / 10000 m, Team Pursuit, Mass Start and Team Sprint. For Ladies 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, the combined 3000 m / 5000 m, Team Pursuit, Mass Start and Team Sprint.