

Press release

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Two more world records on final day in Salt Lake City

The final day of the ISU World Cup Speed Skating in Salt Lake City featured two more world records, bringing the weekend's total to four. Ted-Jan Bloemen (CAN) smashed the 5000m mark set by Sven Kramer (NED) 10 years ago, while Nao Kodaira (JPN) skated Brittany Bowe's 2015 Salt Lake City 1000m world record into the history books. Natalia Voronina (RUS) won the Ladies 3000m and Denis Yuskov (RUS) added 1000m gold to his 1500m world record on Saturday. The weekend's first world record was skated by the Japanese ladies in Friday's Team Pursuit.

Bloemen (CAN) sets epic world record

Ted-Jan Bloemen (CAN) wrapped up the Salt Lake City World Cup with a superb world record in the Men's 5000m. The Canadian blew away the previous best of 6 minutes, 3.32 seconds, set by Sven Kramer (NED) in Calgary 10 years ago, as he finished strongly in 6:01.86.

After having lost three times in head-to-head World Cup races this season, Bloemen did not have to race Kramer in person on Sunday. The world record holder was back in Europe preparing for the Dutch national trials.

However, Bloemen still raced against a 'virtual Kramer' in the shape of the clock, as he got closer and closer to world record pace during his race.

The Canadian 10,000m world record holder started slower than Kramer had done in his 2007 record race.

At the 2600m mark, Bloemen was almost two seconds slower than Kramer. Maintaining a steady pace with sub-29 laps, he edged closer and surpassed Kramer's split at 4600m for the first time. At the finish line he was 1.46 seconds faster.

"I always looked up to that old world record," 31-year-old Bloemen said afterwards.

"That was such an epic race and Sven was so angry. His 6:03 was so much faster than all the ties that were ever skated and even after that race no one actually has come close.

"Our races are hard to compare. He started so fast in 17.7 and he had to pay for that a little afterwards. I skated a super-flat schedule."

Bloemen, who skated in the final pair, had not expected to break the world record by such a large margin.

"I saw the others skating 6:07 in the races before me so I knew that the ice was faster than Calgary last week. And I had this world record in the back of my head the whole week, but breaking it by this

margin really came as a surprise. This is one of my best races ever, together with my 10,000m world record.”

Bloemen was confident he would have seen off Kramer if the Dutchman had been present.

“Yes, I think I would have beaten him. At the first three World Cups this season you saw that the momentum was on my side. I got closer every race and I think this would have been the final blow.”

Bloemen was paired with Sverre Lunde Pedersen (NOR), who finished fifth in 6:07.61. German Patrick Beckert came second in 6:07.02 and his compatriot and pair mate Moritz Geisreiter grabbed bronze in 6:07.31.

Bloemen surpasses Kramer at the top of the 5000m/10,000m world ranking with a total of 340 points. Kramer is second with 300 points and Beckert third with 215 points.

Kodaira (JPN) defies conditions to break 1000m world record

Nao Kodaira (JPN) blamed high air pressure for her missing a 500m world record on Friday, but she made amends by skating the fastest ever Ladies 1000m in 1 minute, 12.09 seconds in Salt Lake City on Sunday.

Ten national records had already been broken in the race when Kodaira took the ice in the final pairing versus compatriot Miho Takagi (JPN).

Yekaterina Shikhova (RUS) led the field with 1:13.23, shaving 0.17 seconds off Olga Fatkulina’s Russian national record. Fatkulina herself clocked 1:13.54 to end up fifth.

World record holder Brittany Bowe (USA), on her way back after more than a year of struggles because of a severe concussion in 2016, skated 1:33.55 to finish sixth.

Kodaira, starting from the inner lane, quickly left Takagi behind. The Japanese sprinter was 0.3 seconds ahead of Bowe’s record pace at the 200m mark, and 0.4 at the 600m mark.

For short distance specialist Kodaira the final lap was the toughest, but she managed to control the damage and stay 0.09 ahead of Bowe’s 2015 Salt Lake City world record.

Kodaira was not complaining about the air pressure any longer.

“It was the same today, but I could control my speed well in this 1000m,” she said. “I was tired in the final lap and it was really tough. I had to do it on my own and I thought to myself, ‘Just go.’”

Takagi finished in a personal best 1:12.63 to take the silver.

“Shit,” Takagi said with a big smile. “I could skate faster. I made a few mistakes.”

On whether she would be able to beat Kodaira on a good day, she said: “Yes, in PyeongChang (at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in February).”

Shikhova, who took the bronze, praised Kodaira’s performance: “She did it perfectly, all the race, from the beginning to the end. Congratulations, she’s a really big athlete.”

After three gold medals and one race in which she crashed out, Kodaira leads the 1000m World Cup ranking with 305 points. Takagi is second with 240 points and Heather Bergsma (USA), who was absent in Salt Lake City, is third with 215 points.

Yuskov (RUS) adds 1000m gold to Utah haul

After his 1500m world record on Saturday, Denis Yuskov (RUS) concluded his Salt Lake City World Cup campaign with the 1000m gold on Sunday. Training partner Koen Verweij (NED) took silver again and Pavel Kulizhnikov (RUS) clinched the bronze.

Seven skaters set new personal best times in Sunday's 1000m, but Shani Davis's (USA) 2009 Salt Lake City world record (1:06.42) survived. Davis himself did not come close to his own top performance, skating 1:07.67 for 12th place.

Verweij was the first to break the 1:07 barrier in the second pairing versus Nico Ihle (GER). The Dutchman finished in 1:06.94, confirming that his speed is back after a two-year absence.

"I think I skated the second fastest lap of the day, so yes, the speed is there," the Dutchman said.

His preparation had been far from ideal.

"I was mistaken by the time. I thought that I had to skate one hour later and I was still being massaged when I heard that I had to start. Maybe that was the reason I skated this fast."

Verweij says there is still room for improvement in his 1000m. "The warm-up was not good and there were many mistakes in my race."

Despite Verweij's many mistakes, only Yuskov was faster. The Russian beat Joey Mantia (USA) in the seventh pair and finished in 1:06.92. Mantia came 10th in 1:07.63.

Kulizhnikov clocked 1:06.96 in an exciting race against Mika Poutala (FIN), who came seventh in 1:07.28.

In the final pair 1000m World Cup leader Kai Verbij (NED) and second-ranked Håvard Holmefjord Lorentzen (NOR) did not manage to beat Yuskov's time and they ended up fourth in 1:07.12, and ninth in 1:07.44 respectively.

Verbij retains his World Cup lead with a total of 320 points. Lorentzen is still second with 272 and Yuskov climbs to third place with 196 points.

Voronina (RUS) takes career second gold in national record

Natalia Voronina (RUS) won the second World Cup gold medal of her career and broke her own national record in the Ladies 3000m at the Utah Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City on Sunday.

The 23-year-old beat multiple World Champion Martina Sáblíková (CZE) in a head-to-head battle in the penultimate pairing. Sáblíková took silver and Claudia Pechstein (GER) grabbed the bronze medal.

Voronina boldly took the lead against Sáblíková, but the experienced 30-year-old Czech pulled back with faster lap times in the second part of the race. At the 2600m mark Sáblíková even took the lead, but Voronina hit back with a 31.3-second final lap versus 31.6 for Sáblíková.

Voronina finished in a new Russian national record time of 3 minutes, 57.70 seconds, breaking her 2015 Calgary national best of 3:57.78.

Sáblíková finished in 3:57.84 and was happy to have secured Olympic qualification and even more happy to be able to rest after four stressful World Cup stages in which she has endured back problems. “It’s getting better now,” she said. “But I have to do much work for my power, I still don’t have it at the moment.

“I still don’t really know the cause of my back problems, and I have to really take good care of it, but it’s getting better. I think in a week from now I’ll be back at a 100 per cent.

“I’ve been on the ice every day for the past two months, so it’s time to relax now. Not only physically, but also in my head. It’s really hard to deal with the stress only two months before the Olympics.”

Voronina takes over the 3000m/5000m World Cup lead from Antoinette de Jong (NED), who skipped the Salt Lake City World Cup to prepare for the Dutch Olympic trials in December.

Voronina collected 265 points in the first four races. Sáblíková comes second with 250 points and Pechstein is third with 245 points.

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](#).

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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.



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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.