



Press release

20 January 2018

Many firsts on second day in Erfurt

Sverre Lunde Pedersen (NOR) took his career first 5000m World Cup gold in track record time at the fifth leg of the ISU World Cup Speed Skating in Erfurt on Saturday. Vanessa Herzog (AUT) ended a lengthy Austrian absence from the top of the World Cup podium when she won the ladies 500m, while Ireen Wüst grabbed her first World Cup gold of the season in the ladies 1500m. Kjeld Nuis (NED) ran away with victory in the men's 1000m.

Herzog breaks Austria's 20-year World Cup drought with gold in ladies 500m

Herzog won the second ladies 500m in 37.88 seconds in Erfurt on Saturday, to become the first Austrian World Cup winner since Emese Hunyady in 1997. Karolina Erbanova (CZE) took silver in 37.96 and Olga Fatkulina (RUS) came third in 38.28.

Herzog was slightly faster than on Friday, when she took silver in 37.92. She felt that she was getting better after having been hampered by a bad cough last week.

"I drank tea to alleviate the pain in my throat and I'm getting better day by day now," she said.

"Today's race was just a little better than yesterday's. I concentrated on staying low at the start and I was five hundredths faster in the opener, so that worked out well."

Herzog skipped the 1000m on Friday because of her cough, but she will start in that distance on Sunday. After the Erfurt World Cup she is going to train hard.

"I want to gain more speed. I've been training with the boys and I will continue to do that over the next couple of weeks to be even faster at the Olympic Games (next month)."

Erbanova won Friday's race and stressed then how small the margins were between silver and gold. On Saturday she missed out on the top spot by just 0.08 seconds.

"Vanessa was just a little better today, but I look at the positive side: I was very close and it was a good race," she said.

Herzog surpassed Erbanova to take second place in the 500m World Cup ranking.

"I don't really look at the ranking," Erbanova said. "I focus on every single race and right now Pyeongchang (Olympics) is the most important one."

Nao Kodaira (JPN), who is absent in Erfurt, still leads the World Cup ranking with 700 points. Herzog has 555 and Erbanova 546.



Nuis defies training fatigue to win men's 1000m

Kjeld Nuis showed that he is ready for his Olympic debut in PyeongChang next month when he won the World Cup 1000m in Erfurt on Saturday in one minute and 8.57 seconds. Hein Otterspeer (NED) came second in 1:08.96 and Mika Poutala (FIN) came third in 1:08.99.

“This felt good,” said Nuis with a smile on his face. “Many others will probably say that it doesn’t matter not to be too fast here, because they trained a lot to be top next month. Well, I trained a lot too, and I know I can still go a lot faster. So this race is very good, it’s a solid base.

“I was a little surprised about my time here. I did a lot of training over the past weeks and I only expected a 1:09.

“It was a good decision to race here. Not racing for a full month between the Olympic trials and the Olympic Games would have been too long.”

By finishing fourth in Erfurt, Håvard Holmeffjord Lorentzen (NOR) climbed to first place in the World Cup standings with 332 points. He surpassed Kai Verbij (NED), who is recovering from a muscle injury suffered at the Dutch trials. Verbij is on 320 points, 40 points ahead of Nuis, who climbed to third place.

Pedersen wins 5000m in track record

Sverre Lunde Pedersen (NOR) clinched his career first 5000m World Cup gold in a track record time of six minutes and 14.66 seconds in Erfurt on Saturday. Italy’s Nicola Tumolero took his first individual World Cup podium with silver, while world record holder Ted-Jan Bloemen (CAN) had to settle for bronze.

Pedersen and Tumolero faced each other in the penultimate pair and they immediately showed that they meant business. They were the only skaters with a sub 48-second split after 600m.

Pedersen was a little ahead throughout the race and he managed to keep his lap times under 30 seconds until the final lap. His finishing time was more than a second faster than the track record of 6:16.02 set in 2009 by Sven Kramer (NED), the Dutch World and Olympic Champion who skipped Erfurt to prepare for PyeongChang next month.

Pedersen is also in preparation for the Olympics and, despite Friday’s 1500m silver and Saturday’s 5000m gold, does not yet feel at the top of his game in Erfurt.

“I was feeling a little tired before the weekend, because I have done a lot of training for a couple of weeks now,” he said. “It came a little bit as a surprise that I was able to skate that fast now, but I have been skating better in the second half of the season since I was a kid. So I hope to continue that this year.”

Tumolero stopped the clock at 6:16.11. The Italian, who won European 5000m gold two weeks ago, had team pursuit silver and bronze medals to his name, but had never before clinched silverware in an individual World Cup race.

Bloemen, who clocked 6:17.11 in the final pair, was not concerned at losing to Pedersen and Tumolero.

“This was a good race with a flat schedule,” he said. “I’m happy with it. I only arrived here from Canada two days ago, so I did not expect too much. I came here to skate a solid race and to qualify for the World Allround Championships. That worked out pretty well.”

Bloemen retained the World Cup lead with 410 points. Kramer is second with 300 points and Pedersen climbed to third place with 295 points.

First World Cup win this season for Wüst

Ireen Wüst (NED) took her first World Cup win of the season when she grabbed gold in Saturday’s 1500m in Erfurt. Marrit Leenstra (NED) took silver and Ida Njåtun (NOR) collected the bronze medal.

Wüst skated against teammate Antoinette de Jong (NED) in the eighth of 10 pairs. She quickly left her compatriot behind and was the first in the race to beat the one minute and 56 second-barrier, finishing in 1:55.66 - just 0.05 short of her own 2013 track record. De Jong had to settle for seventh place in 1:57.85.

“This was a solid race, but not the race with which I could win the Olympic title and that’s what I want,” Wüst said.

The Netherlands’ most decorated Olympian was fourth in Friday’s 1000m and sought redemption in Saturday’s 1500m.

“Yesterday I just disappointed by myself, because I was so much better than I showed. This race was OK. To compare: yesterday in the 1000m I skated 28.3 seconds in the first full lap, and today in the 1500m it was 28.4 so that’s much better.

“I came here to win the 1500m, but it’s not good enough yet. I’ve done a lot of training over the past couple of weeks, so I could not expect to be at the top of my game here.”

Leenstra had the only other time under 1:56, when she stopped the clock at 1:55.75 in the final pair. Njåtun’s 1:56.66 was good enough for bronze.

Miho Takagi (JPN), who is absent in Erfurt, still leads the World Cup ranking with 400 points.

Leenstra is second with 270 points and Yekaterina Shikhova (RUS), who came fourth in 1:56.72, is third with 236 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](#).

For further information please contact:

Selina Vanier

ISU Communications Coordinator



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

media@isu.ch

Tel: +41 21 612 66 66

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.