

November 19, 2018

Lausanne, SUI

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Rostelecom Cup, Day Two

Olympic Champions [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) (JPN) and [Alina Zagitova](#) as well as World Pairs silver medalists [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS) and Ice Dancers [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) (RUS) came out on top on an eventful day of competition at Rostelecom Cup in Moscow (RUS). Rostelecom Cup was the fifth event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2018/19.

Yuzuru Hanyu (JPN) defies injury to take Rostelecom gold

Two-time Olympic Champion [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) of Japan overcame an ankle injury to win his second Grand Prix gold medal this season. [Morisi Kvitelashvili](#) of Georgia claimed the silver, the first ISU Grand Prix medal for his country, while [Kazuki Tomono](#) of Japan earned the bronze.

Hanyu took a bad fall in morning practice on a quadruple loop, twisting his right ankle, and left the ice before the session ended. The two-time World Champion then changed his program content, taking out the quad loop.

He opened with a quad Salchow followed by a quad toe, triple loop, triple flip and somewhat shaky quad toe-triple Salchow sequence. However, Hanyu fell on a triple Axel and popped the second Axel. The Olympic Champion scored 167.88 points for a total of 278.42 points.

“The injury is not the same as last year, but it is very painful and it forced me to change my program. I wanted to skate perfectly in Russia - too bad that it was not possible. I did what I could do considering my condition,” the 23-year-old said.

“I thought about withdrawing because of the injury, but it is my choice. I really wanted to skate this program in Russia.”

Skating last, Kvitelashvili produced a solid performance that featured three quadruple jumps – he only put down his hand on the second quad toe – as well as a triple flip-triple Salchow sequence and three more triples. The Georgian underrotated the triple Axel, but he scored a season’s best of 158.64 points and accumulated 248.58 points.

“I did everything as planned, but not everything went as smoothly as I would have liked. We’ll just continue to work. I am glad that I was able to show my program as clean as I could,” Kvitelashvili said.

Tomono landed two quad Salschows and five triples in his program to Riverdance. However, he also underrotated two triple jumps. He scored 156.47 points, a season’s best, and moved up one spot to third with 238.73 points.

"Unfortunately I was unable to control my nerves and lost to myself, but then I was able to get a grip on myself. This is the first time I made the podium at a Grand Prix and I am very happy about that," the Japanese skater said.

Hanyu is qualified for the Grand Prix Final, but said he will have to see if he recovers in time.

2018 World bronze medalist [Mikhail Kolyada](#) (RUS) landed two quadruple jumps to pull up from eighth to fourth on 225.42 points. Skate Canada silver medalist [Keegan Messing](#) (CAN) came fifth on 220.75 points, edging [Paul Fentz](#) (GER) who placed sixth on 220.57 points. [Alexander Majorov](#) (SWE) faded from third to tenth after numerous errors (205.59 points). [Artur Dmitriev](#) (RUS) was the first skater to attempt a quadruple Axel in international competition, but he fell and the jump was downgraded. He made other errors to finish 11th (189.58 points).

Stepanova/Bukin (RUS) dance to gold and seal place in Grand Prix Final

Russia's [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) danced to their second Grand Prix gold medal and straight into their first ISU Grand Prix Final with a sublime display at the Rostelecom Cup in Moscow Saturday. [Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin](#) of Spain leapfrogged [Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko](#) (USA) to take the silver and the first Ice Dance Grand Prix medal for their country.

Stepanova/Bukin gave a passionate performance to "Am I the One" by Beth Hart, collecting a level four for the lifts and the spin while the diagonal step sequence merited a level three. The European bronze medalists posted a season's best score of 124.94 points and totaled 199.43 points.

"We are very happy to come back after yesterday. We haven't made a mistake in a long time and it was a good lesson for us. We make the Grand Prix Final for the first time at the senior level and two first places in the Grand Prix series are a great success for us at this time," Stepanova said.

Dancing to "Great Gig in the Sky", "Vladimir's Blues" and "Sign of the Times", Hurtado/Khaliavin earned a level four for two lifts, the twizzles and their spin and a level three for the serpentine step sequence and their straight line lift. The Spaniards set a season's best with 108.02 points, which added up to 174.42 points overall.

"Today we skated much better than yesterday. We've worked on our mistakes and we improved. There were still some minor mistakes, but overall we did well," Khaliavin said.

His partner Hurtado added: "A medal on the Grand Prix has been a goal and I dreamed of it when I saw Javier (Fernandez, ESP) getting on the podium. It proves to skaters in Spain that you can be here when you work hard."

Carreira/Ponomarenko's solid performance to "Bloodstream" and "Angel" by Tokio Myers included three level four lifts, but the two step sequences were rated a level two. The 2018 World Junior silver medalists scored 105.20 points and slipped from second to third on 174.21 points.

"We are pretty happy with how it went today. We didn't get all our levels, but for our first senior year we're happy to come third in our second Grand Prix," Carreira said.

[Sofia Evdokimova/Egor Bazin](#) (RUS) moved up from sixth to fourth place with a smooth performance to "Nocturne" and "Sarabande" on 164.66 points. [Natalia Kaliszek/Maksym](#)

[Spodyriev](#) (POL) finished fifth on 161.62 points followed by [Allison Reed/Saulius Ambruvelicius](#) (LTU) in sixth place (158.03 points).

Tarasova/Morozov (RUS) overcome practice accident to win gold

[Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) of Russia bounced back from a practice accident to win their second Grand Prix title this season. Italy's [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) took the silver medal and are the first Italian pair skaters to qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. World Junior Champions [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) of Russia continued their successful senior debut season by earning the bronze, their second Grand Prix medal.

In the morning practice, Tarasova fell and crashed into the boards, cutting her chin. She was taken to hospital and received five stitches, but she was determined to compete.

The World silver medalists opened their program to "The Winter" by Balmorhea with a triple twist and produced a triple toe-double toe-double toe combination, throw triple flip and loop as well as difficult lifts that merited a level four. However, Tarasova stumbled out of a botched triple Salchow attempt.

The European Champions earned 141.78 points, a season's best, and totaled 220.25 points.

"It was a difficult day today. I lost a lot of time when I went to the hospital. So we couldn't prepare for the free skating as usual. Considering that, we skated quite well, I just made one major error," Tarasova said.

Skating to "Tristan and Isolde" by Maxime Rodriguez, Della Monica/Guarise completed a side by side triple Salchow, triple twist, throw triple loop and Salchow. Just the triple toe combination was shaky for Della Monica. The Italian Champions picked up 131.51 points for their Free Skating which added up to 203.83 points overall.

"I want to thank Moscow for giving us great emotions. We felt almost like being at home. It was a good battle, the legs were shaking, but we have been training very hard mentally and physically," Guarise said.

His partner Della Monica added: "It is the first time in the history of figure skating that an Italian pair skating team has qualified for the Grand Prix Final. It was a goal for us for the first part of the season and we achieved it."

Pavliuchenko/Khodykin's performance to "The Great Gatsby" featured a rarely seen side by side triple flip, a triple toe-double toe-double toe as well a triple twist and throw triple loop, but Pavliuchenko fell on the throw triple flip and on a connecting step.

The Muscovites scored 120.63 points and were ranked fourth in the Free Skating, but overall remained in third place on 190.01 points.

"We are happy with our result, but we made some mistakes. Next time we'll hopefully skate clean," Pavliuchenko said.

[Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer](#) (AUT) came third with a clean Free Skating display and moved up one spot to fourth place on 187.01 points. Skate America silver medalists [Alisa Efimova/Alexander Korovin](#) (RUS) slipped from fourth to fifth on 181.62 points. Skate America bronze medalists [Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc](#) (USA) placed sixth (170.29 points). [Deanna Stellato-Dudek/Nathan Bartholomay](#) (USA) withdrew before the Free Skating as Stellato-Dudek has been ill.

Olympic Champion Alina Zagitova (RUS) golden on home ice

Olympic Champion [Alina Zagitova](#) of Russia skated off with the gold medal as the competition concluded at Rostelecom Cup Saturday with the Ladies Free Skating. Her teammate [Sofia Samodurova](#) earned the silver, her second Grand Prix medal, while Korean skater [Eunsoo Lim](#) rose from sixth place to capture the bronze medal.

Zagitova's expressive performance to "Carmen" was highlighted by a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, a triple Salchow and excellent spins. However, the European Champion underrotated a triple Lutz and a triple flip and popped another flip into a double. She scored 142.17 points and racked up 222.95 points overall for her second victory on the Grand Prix circuit this season. "I can't say that my performance was that good today, but I am glad that I was able to pull my combinations together. On the last jump I made a stupid mistake and I will keep working," the 16-year-old said.

Performing to the "Burlesque" soundtrack, Samodurova landed six clean triples and only one triple toe was underrotated. She also picked up a level four for two spins to earn 130.61 points for a total score of 198.01 points. "I am happy that I was able to skate two clean programs. There were some mistakes, my skate was not so clean and this motivates me to work even harder," the Skate America bronze medalist said.

Lim put out a solid performance to the "Chicago" soundtrack that included a triple Lutz-triple toe combination and three more clean triples. The 15-year-old posted a season's best with 127.91 points in the Free Skating and accumulated 185.67 points overall. "I didn't do my best performance, but I tried to do better than in the short program. I have to skate better in my next competition, but overall I am satisfied. This season is really important for me, because it is my first senior season," Lim pointed out.

[Alexia Paganini](#) (SUI) turned in a good performance as well, but lost a few points on spins and on an underrotated triple Salchow to drop to fourth on 182.50 points. [Yuna Shiraiwa](#) (JPN) finished fifth on 180.93 points while [Elizabet Tursynbaeva](#) (KAZ) dropped from fourth to sixth (180.43 points). Skate Canada silver medalist [Mako Yamashita](#) (JPN) finished seventh (161.22 points).

[Gracie Gold](#) (USA) withdrew before the Ladies Free Skating citing emotional stress. She stood in tenth place following the Short Program.

Zagitova qualified for the ISU Grand Prix Final with two wins, while Samodurova will have to wait and see what happens in France next week.

Overall, 56 skaters/couples representing 18 ISU members competed at Rostelecom Cup November 16-18, the fifth of six events in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series. The top 6 qualifiers in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Vancouver (CAN), December 6 to 9, 2018.

The Rostelecom Cup concludes Sunday with the Exhibition Gala. The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating continues next week with the Internationaux de France in Grenoble. For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit [here](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#FigureSkating #GPFigure**.