

### November 27, 2021

### Dordrecht, Netherlands

# Schulting dethroned and China sweep Men's golds

Canada's <u>Kim Boutin</u> (500m) and Korea's <u>Lee Yubin</u> (1500m) claimed the two gold medals on offer in Saturday's Women's World Cup races in Dordrecht, denying pre-event favorite <u>Suzanne</u> <u>Schulting</u> (NED) another golden blitz on home ice. Meanwhile, China dominated the Men's finals as <u>Wu Dajing</u> and <u>Ren Ziwei</u> claimed comfortable victories in the 500m and 1500m to put their rivals on notice ahead of their home Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

Schulting came into the meet having won all three individual events at the World Cup event in Debrecen last week, as well as a clean sweep at the 2021 World Championships at this rink. But she ended Saturday with one bronze medal from two finals.

On the back of a third-place finish in the 500m in Debrecen, it was Boutin who took the gold in Dordrecht for her first World Cup win this season, continuing her return to top form after taking a hiatus from the sport earlier this year.

"I'm pretty happy about the race," Boutin said. "I felt like the speed was there, it's about being calm in front and there was a lot of action (behind her) so it's really nice that I passed that."

Boutin started the final in pole position and led into the first turn ahead of Italy's <u>Arianna</u> <u>Fontana</u> and Schulting. After being passed by Fontana midway through the race, Boutin reclaimed the lead on the next turn and held her advantage to the finish.

"I knew that it was the right thing to do (allowing Fontana to pass her on the inside) because I was really wide at this point, but I was building speed so I could get back and pass her again," Boutin said.

Schulting moved into second inside Fontana on the penultimate turn but fell rounding the corner and crashed out, allowing Fontana to win silver and <u>Elena Seregina</u> (RUS) to take bronze.

"I saw there was a gap and I jumped in the gap, and I think that was an amazing pass," Schulting said.

"And then I also had in mind, because I had a lot of speed, that if I push it through maybe I can pass Kim Boutin. I think I pushed maybe a little bit too early on my left skate and that's why I fell down."

In the 1500m, Schulting appeared set for her third consecutive World Cup victory in the discipline when she took the lead with seven laps to go in the final, maintaining her advantage until the bell.

But Lee overtook her on the inside on the penultimate turn and held on to win, while Canada's <u>Courtney Sarault</u> passed Schulting from the outside coming out of the final turn to claim silver, leaving the Dutch pre-race favorite with bronze.



"I felt pretty in control when I passed with seven laps remaining, and I think I did a pretty good job," Schulting said. "Only the power in the end was a little bit gone and I was not able to finish it right."

Lee added the victory to her season-opening gold in Beijing and silver in Debrecen to win the World Cup 1500m season title over Schulting.

### **Emotional podium for Knegt**

While the Chinese took top honors in the Men's races, <u>Sjinkie Knegt</u>'s (NED) uplifting silver in the 1500m after recovering from two horrific injuries provided the day's biggest inspiration.

It was Knegt's first individual World Cup podium in three seasons. In December 2018 his leg was crushed by a forklift truck, and he suffered third-degree burns in a domestic accident the following month, plunging his skating future into doubt.

"There were always moments where I thought I would never skate again but I'm happy to win this medal after a long period of recovery," Knegt said.

"I needed a medal to get the confirmation to get back on the highest level of skating."

While Knegt's return to the podium was a welcome sight, it was Ren who controlled proceedings in the 1500m by leading for the entire second half of the race to claim his second successive World Cup victory in the distance.

With the victory, Ren, who won Olympic silver in the relay at PyeongChang 2018, has stamped himself as one of the favorites to win what would be his first individual Olympic medal in Beijing.

Park Jang Hyuk (KOR) finished behind Knegt to round out the podium.

In the 500m, Olympic champion Wu started in pole position and led the entire race in an ominous sign that he is ready to defend his title at Beijing 2022.

<u>Steven Dubois</u> (CAN) took the silver, while <u>Konstantin Ivliev</u> (RUS) claimed his first individual World Cup medal with bronze.

Fresh off his victory in this distance in Debrecen, <u>Shaolin Sandor Liu</u> (HUN) finished fourth after crashing with a lap to go.

The Dordrecht World Cup concludes on Sunday with the Men's and Women's individual 1000m and Relay finals.

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating series consists of four events during 2021/22 and they are all qualifying events for Beijing 2022.



World Cup Classification - Men

Men 500m

Men 1000m

Men 1500m

Men 5000m Relay

**World Cup Classification - Women** 

Women 500m

Women 1000m

Women 1500m

Women 3000m Relay

World Cup Classification - Mixed Relay

Mixed Relay

### Where to watch and follow the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating 2021/22?

Viewers will be able to watch the Saturday and Sunday afternoon (local time) World Cup sessions via their national broadcaster/channel. For countries where there are no broadcasters and for the qualification and repechage races, the ISU will offer a live stream on the <a href="Skating ISU YouTube">Skating ISU YouTube</a> Channel. You will find the full list in the Where to watch news here.

Subscribe to the <u>ISU Newsletter</u> to receive the latest information and the "<u>Where to Watch</u>" news. You can also subscribe to the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u> to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

YouTube: <u>ISU Skating</u> IG: @isuspeedskating

Facebook: @ISUShortTrackSpeedSkating

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For further information on ISU Short Track Speed Skating visit: https://www.isu.org/short-track.

### ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series events 2021:

Beijing, CHN October 21 – 24, 2021 Nagoya, JPN - October 28 – 31, 2021 Debrecen, HUN - November 18 – 21, 2021 Dordrecht, NED - November 25 – 28, 2021



### **About ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series**

The World Cup series consists of nine distances 500, 1000 and 1500 meters for Women and Men, Women 3000 meters Team Relay, Men 5000 meters Team Relay and a Mixed Gender Relay over 2000 meters.

The competitions have a single distance character and are held in separate sessions over four days. Day 1 and 2 are dedicated to all Qualifying Rounds. Days 3 and 4 the last Qualifying Rounds (if necessary) take place, followed by the World Cup sessions.

For the Mixed Gender Relay Teams (2 Women & 2 Men), the Women 3000 meters Relay races and Men 5000 meters Relay races a maximum of four Skaters shall compete and must belong to the same ISU Member.

During the Olympic season there are four ISU World Cup Short Track events that also serve at the Olympic qualifying events.