

QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Short Dance (warm up group 6)

Penny Coomes/Nicholas Buckland (GBR) 2018 National Champions

Coomes: (on competing after serious knee injury) It's so nice to be back. I enter competitions differently now. I'm just happy to be here and I don't tend to concentrate too much on the scores. I have to take care of my knee every day and if I don't I'm in trouble. I couldn't skate for a week before we came here because I strained it too much in training.

Buckland: I think we did OK. We haven't done an ISU Championship since Worlds 2016 so it's great to be here and good preparation for the Olympics We've got the biggest event of all coming up and it would be exceptionally tough to jump straight into that after all we've been through.

Natalia Kaliszek/Maksym Spodyriev (POL) 2018 National Champions

Kaliszek: We are very excited about having a good program. We had a little mistake but we felt good energy. We chose Despacito for our Short Dance music before it became so popular, we thought it was just good to dance to. When we started the program today the audience just blew up. For the Free Dance we want to build a nice atmosphere and have fun because we have a very fun program.

Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen (DEN) 2017 European Championships 7th

Fournier Beaudry: The free dance has a different energy, it's a bit more fighting. The short dance is happy and sensual so it is nice that tomorrow we can show a different side.

Sorensen: Today it was great. We really loved it. The program is so fun. (on the different style between the short dance and the free dance) It's good to have a chance in every competition to change and show a different energy. Sometimes the programs can be a little similar but this time they are different and it's nice to play with that. (on Fournier Beaudry not receiving citizenship to compete at the Olympics) There is just no chance. The Danish Government didn't even consider it. In fact, there wasn't even a discussion. There's a bylaw of the Olympic Committee that they can let any athlete compete even if they have problems getting citizenship. Our Danish Olympic Committee tried this path, but it was still a no.

Alexandra Nazarova/Maxim Nikitin (UKR) 2018 National Champions

Nikitin: It felt good and we are glad about what we did and I think it's probably the best we did this program this year. (on dancing the Rumba) Before this season we were a little bit scared about this rhythm but our coaches are such good professionals and they made such a good program for us that there's no part we don't like. Right now I can say this Short Dance is one of my favorite programs.

Marie-Jade Lauriault/Romain Le Gac (FRA) 2018 National silver medalists

Lauriault: We are quite pleased, but there was a wobble on a transition. We got a deduction, maybe for that or maybe for something else, we are not sure. (on competing for the second Olympic spot in Ice Dance) It adds another dimension, but we also had that kind of stress at French Nationals. Mainly we want to skate well, but obviously it is a goal to get the spot. (on receiving French citizenship) I got it December 28, it was like a Christmas present. I had to pass several tests and did a class on history of France. Last year in one test I had to find the number of the car on a TGV train ticket, but I've never travelled on a TGV, so I didn't know and just guessed. It was wrong, it was the seat number.

Le Gac: (on his partner receiving French citizenship) By the end of November we had completed only one of five steps and we thought we're never going to make it. But then my mother accidentally met the Minister of Interior Affairs, Gerard Collomb, on a train. He is the one that eventually has to sign the paper. She told him the story and he said, he'll see what he can do. And then Marie-Jade got citizenship at the end of December.