

QUICK QUOTES

Pairs, Short Program (warm up groups 2 & 3)

Annika Hocke/Ruben Blommaert (GER) 2018 National bronze medalists

Blommaert: Not everything was perfect. But we showed most of what we are capable of. I think for our first Europeans as a team we presented ourselves well and we are pleased. We did the side by side jumps and the throw, things that didn't work so well in the last few competitions were good today. (on goals) We want to finish in the top ten so that Germany has two spots again next year.

Hocke: There were two wobbles and we could have done better than that, but for our first Europeans it was a good start. (On competing in her first Europeans) I was quite nervous. I didn't feel it at first, but when I got out on to the ice and saw the huge rink and the many people; I felt it. But it went away once we started and it is so much more fun to perform in front of many people.

Lola Esbrat/Andrei Novoselov (FRA) 2018 National Champions

Esbrat: I really enjoyed performing here, because this is the home country of my partner and moreover, Russia is a country with rich traditions in figure skating. Our short program was not ideal, but we nevertheless took a step forward.

Novoselov: To skate in front of a home crowd is always nerve-wrecking. In France there is no stress, but here everyone is so supportive and still there is more nerves. (on teaming up with Esbrat) I went to France to skate with Daria Popova, but she retired. Then they suggested me to try out with Lola. After two months the Federation looked at our progress and said that they like this project. (on getting married last June) It was a logical step as we've been together for eight years already, but it did not affect our training at all. My wife is not from the figure skating world, she is nervous for me, she is supportive, but for me it is a lot easier to compete when she is not in the stands.

Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer (AUT) 2018 National Champions

Kiefer: (On coming to Moscow for the second time this season) Of course it was very good. The ice was very good both times – we almost didn't hear ourselves skating and the ice was quick, which is very nice. (on their performance) Most of all I am happy about our twist. On practices we make a lot of clean ones, just like now, but in competitions this season we manage to do it clean only in Oberstdorf (at Nebelhorn Trophy) so far. This is the most important thing to improve for us.

Ziegler: We had a very good experience here, so we were happy to come back.

Valentina Marchei/Ondrej Hotarek (ITA) 2018 National silver medalists

Marchei: It was our best run so far. We skated well at Cup of Russia but we wanted to skate better now. So far we haven't been doing two clean programs (in competition) but we hope that our practices will transfer to a good long program. (on the program) it is a crowd favorite and it is also who we are. We wanted the music, but our coach wasn't really going for it. We first had to skate it as a show program and the crowd loved it and then our coach approved it.

Hotarek: We had so many people cheering for us already at practice so we felt at home. We felt we were obliged to perform well.

Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise (ITA) 2017 GP Internationaux de France bronze medalists

Della Monica: My legs were a bit stiff tonight and it was hard to skate. This is the first Salchow that I missed this season (she doubled). But the rest was good and we got the levels. It still was a big mistake that I did for tonight. (on having a good season so far) It didn't put too much pressure on us, because for this time making the podium was not really our goal. But after doing so many good competitions we maybe wanted to do well again too much.

Guarise: Maybe it was not our best, but it was not so easy to skate at this time. We ended the program well and we got all level fours. The long program tomorrow is another day, we try to be more focused.