

QUICK QUOTES

Ice Dance, Rhythm Dance (warm up group 3)

Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier (CAN), 2019 National silver medalists

Poirier: At different events it is sometimes a little inconsistent depending on the judging but as long as it is consistent amongst the athletes in the same event that is what matters. But we feel we did well and set us up well for the free dance. We have had some problems with the levels on Tango Romantica and we have made some improvements and are pleased with them, despite where we may end up in the standings. (on their Free Dance) We are using the story of Vincent Van Gogh's art and tell the more general human story of what it means to create and struggle and put it out into the world and see how people take it. We can all relate to because we all have strived to achieve things we want to achieve and to make things we want to make. And that story is exactly that, the struggle to create and the struggle to let go into the world and put it into other people's hands.

Gilles: We are really pushing to be on the World podium this year and it would just as special on Four Continents podium because the two of us haven't been on the podium since 2014. (interpretation of their program) For the two of us it a place where we can really lose ourselves everyday and everyday it brings a different emotion. There are so many layers and depth and I think people can really feel for that, grow, and take it in.

Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue (USA), 2018 ISU GP Final Champions

Hubbell: We're very pleased. I think we've been putting so much work this season, and we've improved so much, and it's testament to that. It wasn't our best performance, and I especially, was quite shaky, had a lot of stumbles here and there, but we were able to show exactly how hard we've been working and still obtain our season's best score, even though it wasn't technically very strong, but overall we are very happy with where we're standing. We're looking forward to our free dance. (On the Free Dance) We didn't change anything since Nationals, so for anyone who watched the US Championships, it will be the same structure. We're just feeling more and more, as time has gone on, as the technical side has become more consistent and perfected. We've been able to put more and more, touches, romance and connection, in there. So that's a lot of the focuses that we put on in the five days we have between Nationals and this competition.

Donohue: I think today is really a testament to our training, and it really paid off today. (On the preparation) We were lucky because this year we were able to take Skate Canada and Skate America, the same kind of schedule, less than a week in between, so we kind of know what to expect. It was more about maintaining the level of confidence in our program, not letting us rest too much and lose that bit of cardio work. So for coming into this, it was really just about go through the run-throughs, take time to heal, rest, to get us ready, because I think mentally we are there.

Madison Chock/Evan Bates (USA), 2015 World silver & 2016 World bronze medalists

Chock: We feel very pleased. It was very fun to skate out there today and the crowd was very receptive to our performance and we just had a really good time; it went by so quickly. (On preparing for this competition) Our coaches have done a very good job of preparing us. We've never done such an intense competition schedule, especially coming back after ten months off (due to her injury), but we feel more prepared than ever. We're very comfortable with our programs and we have a lot of fun every time we skate them.

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Bates: We've done a lot of work to prepare for three competitions in a short period of time, this being the third, and I feel like we're building each time we compete. This rhythm dance is the best of the year so far. (On what to expect on Sunday) The free dance is really something for the crowd because we're doing something up tempo, sophisticated but really fun (an Elvis Presley medley) and we're really excited by it because we feel like it's a real representation of our personalities on the ice and we just love it.

Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje (CAN), 2018 World bronze medalists

Poje: today's performance was good, even if it wasn't our best, we definitely have things we want to move forwards on, but we're looking forwards to putting out another good performance with the free dance. (on their free dance, tribute to Denis Ten) It's about the emotional memories that we have shared with Denis throughout our friendship and the emotional impact that his skating and like outside skating had on the entire world. It is our medium of expressing ourselves, that's why it's so special to us.

Weaver: (On missing out the Grand Prix season) It's the first time we do that, we had a great opportunity to tour across Canada. We were able to practice our competitive programs but it is different when you have a panel of judges watching, this is a great stepping stone towards our ultimate goal, Worlds. The preparation was very different: we slept on a bus for six weeks, we trained on small ice for 30mins a day sometimes less. We learned how to be smart with our training so we can arrive at this part of the season feeling very fresh and excited.

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