

Press Conference
Junior Men, after Free Skating

Tomoki Hiwatashi (USA), 2019 World Junior Champion

When I saw the free program score of 148 and second place in free and since I was second in the short program too, it all added up as two. I thought I was second. But when I saw 230 points in total I could not believe it, because I did not think I could win. I am very excited to go back home with my gold medal, to meet my parents, my friends. But at the same time the second toe loop I wanted to do a quad toeloop and get ready for the next season, to be in the state where I can prove myself as a good senior competitor. I was not able to do that tonight. I will work on that. I need to get ready for next season. (on the time and number of elements allowed) To be honest, I have put a lot of effort into this long program with Ben Agosto, we made sure all my best qualities are included. I really don't feel there is much problem with rules or anything - as long as the choreographer and skaters can work together and put what they can together and are confident about it. (on his emotions hearing the national anthem) In the beginning I thought I would cry but I didn't, but what was really exciting is that throughout my career I have only heard the anthem once in The Hague at Challenge Cup in 2015. I could not believe that I was able to hear it with what I did myself and I was really happy. (on doing the Biellmann spin) My first coach told me this was the spin I could probably do. I was always flexible, as a kid. He just told me to try it. Biellmann is just this one thing that not many men can do and I want people to think that it is my thing now. I want when people see other men skater do Biellmann to think 'Tomoki can do it better!' I want everyone to think I have the best one. I have been doing it since I started skating, since I was 5 - so a long time. (on returning to compete in Zagreb, Croatia) I never had an international competition in the same place so since I skated here already once I felt really confident about how the ice felt and how everything would go. It was 2015 [Junior Grand Prix Croatia Cup] and this was my second Junior Grand Prix and my first Junior Grand Prix medal that I got here, very exciting moment. I skated to Charlie Chaplin and I did not expect to medal but I did it and I felt like this was a good place to return for competition. (on skaters who inspires him) I love a lot of skaters and I am probably going to name a lot of them now. The most I guess for now is Alexei Yagudin. I loved his skating, I loved how he went and did the quad toe, his program at the Olympics was the best program that I have ever seen and I don't think anyone has done better. Yagudin has been the great skater for me. There are also Yuzuru Hanyu, Nathan Chen, Shoma Uno - they are all going for new things, getting records and it is amazing how they can keep up the great work and I haven't been able to do that consistently so I am inspired by them. Vincent Zhou is a skater who skates at my rink and he does a quad Lutz, quad Salchow, quad flip, quad toe and he inspires me. Mao Asada has been an inspiration since I was little. While I did not know Yagudin, but I did know Mao Asada from when I started skating and she inspired my mother to get me to skate.

Roman Savosin (RUS), 2019 World Junior silver medalist

(on moving up from 6th place after the Short Program) Obviously, I was aiming to move up in the standings, I was hoping for it. I am very glad it worked out, but mostly I was thinking of skating a clean program and am very pleased with my performance today because throughout this season I never really managed to skate such a good program. (on the time and number of elements allowed) It would be nice if we could have a little bit more time for choreography, but it is what it is. (on skaters who inspire them) I have always liked Javier Fernandez, I have always rooted for him. I was inspired the way he worked his way up. When he started competing he would not make it to the free program and he managed to win European Championships so many times so he is my inspiration. (on what was the difference between this competition and the previous ones during the season) The difference was that this competition was so important and I drew conclusions from the events that didn't go that well. I also prepared in a different way mentally and I am very glad it has worked out.

Daniel Grassl (ITA), 2019 World Junior bronze medalist

I am very happy. I did make mistakes, but it is okay. My goal was to get into top five and being third is great. I want to thank my coach, my choreographer, Anna (Cappelini), Nicoletta and my parents. Also happy birthday to my mom, it is her birthday today. I hope she likes her present. (on the time and number of elements allowed) For now, I would not change the rules because in the past years there were eight jumps and now there are seven and for me this was a good decision. Eight jumps in free skating is a lot. (on



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returning to compete in Zagreb, Croatia) I love competing in Zagreb because I always do new things here. Like I did my first double Axel, my first triple Lutz, my first quad Lutz, my first [quad] loop. Also this is my first Junior Worlds. I love always competing in Zagreb. (on winning a bronze medal) I am really happy for the third place, because I couldn't have imagined doing it this year, I was thinking of possibly doing it in the next year. I was really excited today and when I fell on the quad Lutz I knew I had to go forward and do the quad loop. It turned out good. (on skaters who inspire them) My inspiration is Patrick Chan, because he has good skating skills, good jumps and spins. He has always been my inspiration since I was young. (on the rise of Italian men) I was always working on quads, I always wanted to land them and now Italian men skating is strong. Matteo (Rizzo) has strong skating skills and also jumps and I hope we can both do better and better as Italian team.

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