

## PRESS CONFERENCE

Men, after Free Skating

### **Nathan Chen (USA), 2018 World Champion**

I'm so happy I was able to do what I did here. Again, I learned a lot from the Olympics where I didn't do things at all the way I wanted to, except in the long program. I wanted to do a better short here and long program too. It was an honor to win and to represent the US and to come out in 2018 with a gold medal (after Evan Lysacek's in 2009), and it's an honor to be sitting here with him (Shoma Uno) with the silver medal (NB Mikhail Kolyada had not yet arrived). (On whether he knew what other competitors had done) I was aware of what the other guys had done, relatively, not exactly, but I knew a lot of guys made a lot of mistakes and that helped solidify my approach to do six quads, because the opportunity to make mistakes because points were much further behind than expected. (On the Olympic Games) Olympics are on a different level to Worlds so coming in with that experience of what to set my mind on and what to think about throughout the program really did help me out a lot. (On whether Worlds should be held in an Olympic season) I'm really glad the Worlds were held so close after the Olympics because it gave me the chance to end the season on a better note. The Olympics are very taxing and take a lot out of skaters and that may have contributed to what happened here, but from the closing ceremony to this event gave all of us time to recover. However, a little more time would have been better, but I'm really glad this event was here. (On quads) I'm happy to be able to do six quads. The six quad decision was sort of based on what other guys were doing but I prepared well for it. I did six at the Games too, they were also not perfect and they weren't perfect here either so I have a lot to improve on. I did five, but stepped out of the sixth. I'm glad I had the opportunity to try it. As far as I understand there may be a rule change coming up but I'm glad this season I have been able to keep trying and keep trying so I was able to do what I did here. (On the time changes) It's not our decision, whatever is thrown our way we'll take it, regardless we will prepare as best as possible but right now I don't know what the change will be. We all try not to do the same thing. Right now I'm not really sure what the rules are or going to be but we'll take it and try and progress on as best as possible. (On the point deficit between him and the other medalists) Shoma is injured, we knew that all week, and through the short program and long program at Olympics he didn't do that. I sympathize because I've competed with injuries so I know how difficult it can be. I wouldn't look at the point deficit, I'll take it as a win for today and keep working and I know these guys will do too. (On Shoma Uno) I know Shoma is very hard working and he has really challenged me over the years. When he landed the quad flip that motivated me to try, and seeing him go for the quad loop gets me motivated to do that too. He also brings a lot artistically to the table. It's great to have the opportunity to compete against him, he keeps me inspired and motivated and trying to improve myself. (On his coach, Rafael Arutunian) I haven't talked to Raf yet. He brought a lot of skaters here so there was lots of pressure on him and I am sure he was nervous for all of us but he was super happy that I was able to do what I did here. We have worked hard for the last few years so a lot of my success goes down to him too. I'm happy and know he is too that I was able to do that. We have a bond further than a skater and a coach, he's like a father or a mentor to me. I'm glad I can work with him and continue to work with him in the future. (On whether he would take back his short program performances at the Olympic Games) No, the Olympics is what it is and I learned so much more from making mistakes in the short program than if I had skated better or like I did here. It helped me improve as a skater and taught me how to approach big competitions, and that will help me better than if I'd done this short program there.

### **Shoma Uno (JPN), 2018 World silver medalist**

I was not able to show my best in either the short or the long program here but I didn't give up till the end so I think that's the result here. (On whether the Worlds should be held in an Olympic season) Actually to be honest either way it is fine by me. If they decide not to hold World Championships in an Olympic year

-2-

Official ISU Sponsors



that's ok and if they do I will prepare myself. It's not the skaters' decision and if they give us the schedule we'll be able to adjust to it. (On the proposed rule changes to the length of programs) If we are doing one less jump I will probably take out my triple Salchow as it is my easiest jump. It only takes a little more than 10 seconds to do this jump so it will be difficult to skate the whole program the way it is now. (On what he admires in Nathan Chen) My personal opinion on not just Nathan but also Mikhail (Kolyada) is that I like them as skaters and as a person. I know I'm competing against them but I'm also rooting for them because I respect them so much. Many things about Nathan are outstanding, he's an all-round skater, very well balanced, and not only that but his jumps are very consistent and he has so many kinds of quads. As for Mikhail, in his short program he didn't even try a quad Lutz so to be able to score over 100 points was very impressive. So I think each of them have such outstanding points.

**Mikhail Kolyada (RUS), 2018 World bronze medalist**

To be honest it is a great feeling, especially the short program. It's great because since 2011 no Russian man has gotten on the podium, so I'm happy it was me that did. (On holding World Championships in an Olympic year) It is not decided by the athletes. It happens so we compete. That's the way it is. For me personally I had enough time to rest and then prepare again. (On proposed time changes to the rules) I don't know what to say because there are a lot changes ahead in the judging system. I think they will make unusual decisions, there will be interesting changes for figure skating in general. Not everyone can do six quads.

Official ISU Sponsors

Official ISU Sponsors

