

## PRESS CONFERENCE

Pairs, after Free Skating

### **Aljona Savchenko/Bruno Massot (GER), 2018 World Champions**

Savchenko: (Comparing this performance to the Olympic Games) I think it's because it's the last competition and we decided to skate here for our family, for friends and fans. It was really hard after Olympics to come back home. We went home for seven hours and then we left for "Art on ice". We had just one week of preparation. But thinking of the family who couldn't be at Olympics was our motivation to skate here. We gave all our energy and we skated with heart. That's why it was so emotional. (On the noise of the audience) I think it's competition. For me it's more motivation because I like it. (On the next season) I think about it tomorrow.

Massot: It was exactly the season that we wanted. We started this season in September and we said (to ourselves), we will give our best to win everything. We didn't go to Europeans in order to prepare for the Olympics. I think it was a good choice. We realized today that we reached our goal of the season today. (On the noise) It's the best way to perform when the public is with you. Of course they were here for Italy, but they were here also for everyone else. It was an amazing audience. When we were on the ice and heard all these people screaming and clapping, that gives you a lot of strength to do an amazing performance. It's not disturbing at all, just very good. (On remembering when Aljona asked him to skate with her and on changing as a skater after that) Of course I remember the day. Of course I remember my reaction (drops his jaw). I realized today the crazy work I had to do during these four years. But I was not alone to work, I mean we worked together for same goal in the same way. It was hard work for her to bring me to her level, and it was hard work for me to reach her level. We all remember this and that's why it gives me a lot of emotion. We remember all these good or bad moments, it's a very good story for us and we are really happy.

### **Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov (RUS), 2018 World silver medalists**

Morozov: We are happy tonight. We feel that it was hard and we're really tired. We are happy the season is over. It was a really long and hard season. I am just happy with what we could do today. (On skating last) I think we are lucky to draw the last number. All season we skated last, in every competition. Now it's normal for us to skate with (starting number) four. We didn't have any pressure today, we just skated normally. All season, we did the same things, it was not a problem for us. (On what to do next season) I think we all think about vacation. It's impossible to think about next season right now. Everyone wants to relax.

### **Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres (FRA), 2018 World bronze medalists**

James: (On her fall) We had been working on triple Salchow throw that we haven't done for over 2 years now. We only started on Thursday last week, so it's only been few days. The coaches wanted me to stay focused because I don't have reflexes for triple any more, I just turn so quickly now for the quad. But we did a lot of beautiful triple Salchows in the warm up and in practice. I think this one was just extraordinarily big. I had too much time to come out and I got knocked out of me. But I think the experience from this and last year: A mistake can win or lose the competition, but what you do next can change everything. So knowing this from my ups and downs last year, in that moment I forgot the pain. It's a lot of work. My coaches', my partner's, my sports psychologist's support made everything possible today. (On the noise of the audience) They were amazing. It was the first time I actually heard the audience while I was skating, it gave me a smile and motivated me. (On remembering their first day of skating together with Cipres) That was so long ago. I remember our 3-day-trial and it was so fun. He was so funny, because he had never done pairs before, so he was really nervous and saying "oh my gosh, oh my gosh" every time he threw me. I knew that we were going to be good friends. I'm so glad I made that choice because we're a really good team today. It's been bumpy but amazing with Morgan.

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Cipres: I want to congratulate Vlad and Evgenia and Bruno and Aliona, because it was not only a World Championships, but it was a really, really long season with a high level in every competition. Everyone did great in this season. As for us, we are just really happy to win this medal, it's just a dream. I think we'll only realize tomorrow maybe that we have this medal. And I'd say it's not medal for us, but it's a medal for the French team, our coaches, our federation, our families, our friends, our medical staff and all the people who are close to us. (On their coach John Zimmerman talking about winning a medal at post-Olympic Worlds which he did in 2002) Every day we hear about his experience with Kyoko (Ina). Every day. But I think, it's a good thing that he can share that with us and we can learn from what he did. He finished 5th at the Olympics and 3rd at Worlds, I think we are the same now. I think at Europeans, we did the mistake to think too much about becoming European Champions after the short. Today we didn't talk about the medal, we talked about what we had to do and how we can do it. I have to say, it was hard to skate well today because our preparation was really short and not that good. I think finishing third with a bad preparation is a good thing.

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