

PRESS CONFERENCE

Ice Dance, after Short Dance

Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron (FRA), 1st after the Short Dance

Papadakis: (On using new short dance rhythms next season) I feel like every year when you are listening to the same music over and over again every day for a whole season it makes you want to move on to other music and another theme. It has really been a pleasure to work on the Latin and we love both our programs but we will also be very happy to change next season. (On fixing her dress after the Olympic Games) Back in Montreal I fixed a couple of things on my dress and made sure it wouldn't be able to break or open in any way, and it didn't! (On their Free Dance to 'Moonlight Sonata') With this free dance we already achieved what we wanted to this season, we love this program, it wasn't easy to build and work on but it was something we were really motivated for. Beethoven is a great composer and we really connect a lot with his music, especially this piece, so tomorrow will be another opportunity to perform in front of a competitive audience and I hope we can deliver a performance we are proud of, we are just very excited.

Cizeron: We had a really good feeling on the ice today, it felt really special to be back in Milan after five years when we were here for Junior Worlds, and the crowd was amazing. We really needed to be supported today when the season has been so demanding so it felt really good to have that support. We had a great time today and it feels really good to end the season on a note like this. (On changing back to a sleeveless top after Olympics) It's just really really hot in here, and I like no sleeves just because I sweat a lot.

Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue (USA), 2nd after the Short Dance

Hubbell: Many teams throughout this event achieved a season's best which was wonderful to see, especially after a demanding season and many of us coming off the Olympics not long ago, but Zachary and I definitely wanted to not just wait till Worlds but go home after the Olympics and keep improving. We put out an incredible performance and we are very proud to achieve a clean protocol with all level 4s. We really feel we gave our best performance today and the crowd was wonderful so we are very happy. (On changing music for the short dance next season) Zach and I love Latin, we know not everyone has that opinion and it's hard to listen to so many in a row but we enjoyed this season and loved this program. But we have never done Tango together and we are interested in that challenge as it is a genre we feel will be good for us, it's a passionate and powerful dance which we are really excited to explore. (On improving their speed and ice coverage) It's been a process for the last three years after moving to Montreal to be able to perform with our natural power and let it glide across the ice. We've always been powerful but we've not always had the grace and finesse you see from the other teams in Montreal. We have taken time to grow into that but we are still a fairly new partnership compared to some, we are still hitting our peak and finding out who we are, and we feel it's really coming together at this moment.

Donohue: (On improving after the Olympic Games) I don't think there's been any magic secret to it, we decided what we liked and thought we could improve on and we let our coaches drive us into the best shape. Our team knew just where to push and where to pull. Coming off our experience at the Olympic Games we put our best foot forward with the program.

Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje (CAN), 3rd after the Short Dance

Weaver: (On changing the short dance next year) Andrew and I love the Latin rhythm, and this is the second time we've done it but we took a different avenue in 2011-12. We like to embrace our versatility, we love to change it up and try different styles. I don't know what awaits us next season but we will get to try new things on the Stars on Ice tour. We are happy we got to do Latin again but we are ready to move on.

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(On competing here) This is our first time competing in Italy and we love it. We're happy with today and can enjoy this feeling and this achievement but we need to have so much focus for tomorrow and put everything in. It's a bittersweet program that represents our souls on the ice, so that's where our focus resides for now. (On ups and downs) We're so happy today to not only skate a clean performance of the short dance which has given us a lot of trouble this season, but more importantly to skate for us and our dear fans. We've been through a lot in our career, we have won and lost and been through it all. To go out today and skate for the love of it and share that joy with people is true success. (On their Free Dance to 'Je suis malade') This piece was brought to us by an anonymous fan in 2011 and I read the email first but we hadn't heard the song before and the first time we heard it we fell in love right away. We considered some other versions, even a duet version, but there was nothing like the emotion she (Lara Fabian) has in her voice. We saw her live in New York a couple of months ago. The great thing was at Worlds in Nice this fan was there, and he's here in Milan too so it's a double full circle and just the way this program should end.

Poje: (On resurrecting their free dance for the last time) It's funny it kind of feels like déjà vu because the first time that we thought it was the last time it was bittersweet because it's a program we enjoy training and competing because it feels connected to our souls. Going out there tomorrow we want to be in that same moment and go out there being who we are and remembering why we love this program. It's a joy to train on daily basis and we know our fans are behind us and we hope to do a good program one more time.

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