

## Press release

30 September 2017

### ISU Challenger Series Nebelhorn Trophy 2017: Olympic Qualifying Competition Day Two

The first Olympic spots were taken in the Pairs and Men's events at Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf, Germany, on Friday. The Ladies started their competition with the Short Program.

#### **Kailani Craine (AUS) takes first place in Ladies Short Program**

Kailani Craine of Australia took first place in the Ladies Short Program as Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf, Germany continued Friday. Sweden's Matilda Algotsson is standing in second place followed by Nathalie Weinzierl of Germany.

Craine landed a triple loop-double toe, triple flip and double Axel in her routine to "Dream A Little Dream Of Me" to set a new personal best score of 58.02 points. "Of course, I was nervous, because it's an Olympic spot, my dream on the line, but I definitely prepared, I couldn't have done anything else in training to prepare for this moment. I've been really present in my training and I tried to mimick competition in my training", the Australian Champion said about competing in the Olympic qualifying event.

Algotsson's program to "Turn To Stone" by Ingrid Michaelson featured a triple Lutz-double toe combination, a triple flip and double Axel. The 19-year-old achieved a new personal best with 56.91 points as well. "I tried not to make too big deal out of it. I just tried to do what I can do and tried my best. That worked out today, but it's exciting to compete for an Olympic spot", the Swedish skater shared.

Skating to "Caruso", Weinzierl completed a triple Lutz-double toe combination and a double Axel, but she missed the triple loop. The German Champion earned 55.48 points. "For me this is also an important event, because we (German ladies) compete in three Challenger events and at Natioanls for the one Olympic spot. I was in Sochi in 2014 and I decided right away I want to go again, because it is really something special to compete

Anna Khychenkova (UKR) in fourth place (55.05 points), Viveca Lindfors (FIN) in fifth (53.75 points), Alexia Paganini (SUI) in sixth (53.59 points) and Isadora Williams (BRA) in seventh (53.44 points) remain close to the podium.

#### **Tarasova/Morozov win Pairs at Nebelhorn Trophy**

Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov of Russia won the Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf, Germany on Friday. Germany's Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot took the silver medal and Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor of Australia moved up one spot to take the bronze. The Australians and four more couples earned an Olympic spot each for their country.

Tarasova/Morozov opened their Rock'n'Roll program with a quad twist and followed up with a side by side triple Salchow and an excellent throw triple Salchow. The European Champions went on to produce level-four lifts, but they struggled with their triple toe-double toe combination. She did only a double-single while his landing was wobbly. The World bronze medalists scored 140.94 points and totaled 218.46 points to win the event. "It was not a 100 percent yet, but it was our first competition. It was a good way for us to start the season like this in Oberstdorf", Morozov commented.

Savchenko/Massot's program to "La Terre Vue du Ciel" was highlighted by a big triple twist, difficult lifts and a throw triple Salchow, but Savchenko fell on the throw triple Axel while Massot crashed on the back end of the triple toe-triple toe sequence. The World silver medalists picked up 138.09 points and remained in second place at 211.08 points. "It was a bit difficult for us this being the first competition of the season. We take it as a practice. We have a new program with difficult choreography", Massot told the press.

Alexandrovskaya/Windsor put out a strong performance to "The Mask", hitting a triple twist, side by side triple Salchow and triple toe-double toe-double toe as well a throw triple flip and Salchow. The 2017 World Junior Champions improved their personal best significantly, scoring 125.80 points for the Free Skating and 190.31 points overall. The team earned an Olympic spot. "Obviously it is very exciting for us. We skated really, really well and we also qualified (an Olympic spot) for Australia. So that was a huge step for us", Windsor said.

Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer (AUT) slipped from third to fourth at 180.60 points. Annika Hocke /Ruben Blommaert (GER) moved up from eighth to fourth at 180.37 points. Tae Ok Ryom/Ju Sik Kim (PRK) placed sixth at 180.09 points.

In addition to Australia the following ISU members qualified a spot for the Olympic Winter Games 2018 in Pyeongchang, Korea: Austria, Czech Republic, Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea and Israel. Su Yeon Kim/Hyungtae Kim (KOR) finished 15th, but the host country rule might apply. The couples from Russia, Germany, Canada and USA did not take part in the Olympic qualification process as their federations already had qualified spots at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2017.

### **Hendrickx (BEL) claims Nebelhorn Trophy gold and earns Olympic spot**

Jorik Hendrickx of Belgium claimed the gold at Nebelhorn Trophy and earned an Olympic spot for his country Friday in Oberstdorf, Germany. Alexander Johnson (USA) skated to the silver medal while Sweden's Alexander Majorov clinched the bronze and also a berth for the Olympic Winter Games 2018.

Hendrickx turned in an excellent performance to "Concierto de Aranjuez", reeling off eight triple jumps including two Axels and a triple Lutz-triple toe-double loop combination as well as level-four spins and footwork. The Belgian Champion posted a new personal best score with 167.91 points for the Free Skating and 253.06 points total score. "It is the Olympic qualifying tournament, but I just approached

it as a normal competition. I'm very pleased with my performance. I didn't have a good sleep last night and it has been a very long day. I tried to stay focused and I performed well", Hendrickx commented.

Johnson, who coincidentally skated to "Concierto de Aranjuez" as well, landed a rare triple Lutz-single loop-triple flip combination and three more triples, but he struggled with the triple Axel. The American was ranked sixth in the Free Skating with 143.59 points, which was a personal best, and held on to second place at 226.04 points overall. "My free program was not what I wanted it to be, but I definitely showed some great things out there and didn't give up even when things weren't going my way. I'm proud of myself and I definitely accomplished a lot at this competition. Now it is time to go back to work", the 27-year-old noted.

Majorov opened his James Bond program with a quadruple toeloop and hit six triples, but crashed on a triple flip. The multiple Swedish Champion scored 148.03 points for the Free Skating and was ranked fifth in this segment. He totaled 225.04 points to remain in third place. "It (qualifying a spot) means a lot, because it is a part of the goal you have, which are the Olympic Games. It is a really important competition. I did it and I did it well. The free program was alright, I missed only one jump", Majorov said.

Matteo Rizzo (ITA) was second in the Free Skating and moved up one spot to fourth place at 223.27 points followed by June Hyoungh Lee (KOR) at 222.89 points and Julian Zhi Jie Yee (MAS) at 220.67 points. Yaroslav Paniot (UKR) came seventh (208.76 points). Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Korea, Malaysia and Ukraine earned spots for the Olympic Winter Games. Yee is the first Malaysian athlete to qualify for Olympic Winter Games.

The ISU Challenger Series Nebelhorn Trophy 2017 is the designated Olympic Qualifying Event this season. 25 Men, 34 Ladies, 11 Pairs and 16 Ice Dance couples compete for six available spots in Men's, Ladies and Ice Dance and five spots in Pair Skating. More spots might become available if countries return Olympic quota places. 24 Olympic spots for Men and Ladies, 16 for Pairs and 19 for Ice Dance couples were allocated at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2017.

For further information including [results](#) and follow the discussion on social media by using **#FigureSkating #NebelhornTrophy** and watch the live stream [here](#). Nebelhorn Trophy concludes Saturday with the Free Dance, the Ladies Free Skating and the Exhibition Gala.

**For further information please contact:**

Selina Vanier

ISU Communications Coordinator

[media@isu.ch](mailto:media@isu.ch)

Tel: +41 21 612 66 66