

Press release

30 September 2017

ISU Challenger Series Nebelhorn Trophy 2017: Olympic Qualifying Competition Day Three

Coomes/Buckland (GBR) dance off with gold and an Olympic spot

Penny Coomes/Nicholas Buckland of Great Britain returned in style to win the Nebelhorn Trophy and top the list of Olympic qualifiers. Silver medalists Kana Muramoto/Chris Reed of Japan and bronze medalists Kavita Lorenz/Joti Polizoakis of Germany earned spots as well.

Coomes/Buckland's dance to "Battle Remembered" was highlighted by level-four lifts, a level-four combination spin and level-three footwork, only the twizzles were graded a level two. The two-time European bronze medalists scored 105.34 points, setting a new personal best and accumulated 177.13 points overall. "For us, it's our first time we've shared our free dance. It is a big thing to get out a new program in front of everybody. It wasn't our best skate, we made a couple of mistakes, we have skated that far better in practice and I'm sure it's going to improve throughout the season. But wheter you like it or not, it was Olympic qualification and that was the most important thing for us today and we did that", Buckland said.

Dancing to "The Last Emperor" and "Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence", Muramoto/Reed completed five level-four elements and picked up a level three for the step sequences to achieve a new personal best of 96.63 points. The Japanese Champions totaled 159.30 points. "I was emotional before we skated. It was a dream going to the Olympics and I couldn't even imagine myself being there when I was a single skater. Now I have that amazing partner and we made it. Our skate today was really controlled but emotional, too", Muramoto commented.

Lorenz/Polizoakis produced level-four lifts and level-three twizzles in their program to "Pride and Prejudice". The German Champions earned 91.41 points, which added up to 152.20 points. "We were really excited to do this free dance today, because this program means so much to us. We have a good connection to the music and the film, so we enjoyed every second of it. Today, we not only skated for ourselves, we also skated for Germany, because we were able to get the spot", Lorenz told the post-event press conference.

Yura Min/Alexander Gamelin (KOR) moved up from seventh to fourth with a Korean dance (143.80 points) and qualified a spot for the home Olympic Games as did Cortney Mansour/Michal Ceska (CZE) in fifth place (143.44 points) and Lucie Mysliveckova/Lukas Csolley (SVK) in sixth at 143.22 points.

Kailani Craine (AUS) grabs gold and Olympic spot

Australia's Kailani Craine skated to gold as Nebelhorn Trophy wrapped up Saturday in Oberstdorf, Germany. Matilda Algotsson of Sweden earned the silver medal and Alexia Paganini of Switzerland

surged from sixth to clinch the bronze medal. All three Ladies secured an Olympic berth for their country.

Craine's program to "Moulin Rouge" included five triples jumps, but the two Lutzes received an edge call. The Australian Champion also completed three level-four spins and level-four footwork and picked up 109.43 points. Craine was ranked second in the Free Skating but edged out Algotsson by 0.44 points to take the gold at 167.45 points. "I felt really good in my free program today. I felt really prepared for this competition. It wasn't the best free program that I've done, but it was enough to get me first place and to qualify an Olympic spot. I don't think anything really can compare with what the Olympic Games are going to be like. It's been a dream since I started skating, so I really just want to be able to skate my best, but I want to soak up every single moment", Craine said.

Algotsson jazzy routine to "Minnie the Moocher", "At Last" and "Jumpin' Jack" featured four solid triples as well as difficult spins and footwork. The 19-year-old set a new personal best for herself with 110.10 points and was ranked first in the Free Skating. Overall the Swede accumulated 167.45 points. "I felt I really could enjoy my free program today, during the program as well, not just after. I felt secure and I could trust my training and go for it. My legs were shaking a bit before, but I could handle it. For me it feels unreal that I actually might be able to go to the Olympics. I'm going to try to work hard, because I think it is something you will remember forever. Hopefully I will get to go", Algotsson commented.

Performing to "Phantom of the Opera", Paganini landed a double Axel-single loop-triple Salchow as well as four more triples. The 15-year-old posted 102.39 points, a personal best, which added up to 155.98 points overall. "I was really nervous going into this event, but I knew I was prepared and I can count on my training. For me it really hasn't sunk in yet that I got the spot. So thinking to be at the Olympics is so crazy", Paganini shared.

Nathalie Weinzierl (GER) slipped from third to fourth after making a few errors (155.85 points). Isadora Williams (BRA) in fifth place (154.21 points), Viveca Lindfors (FIN) in sixth (154.10 points) and Anna Khnychenkova (UKR) in seventh (151.08 points) earned Olympic spots. Weinzierl was the only Lady in the event not competing for an Olympic spot as Germany already got one.

The ISU Challenger Series Nebelhorn Trophy 2017 was the designated Olympic Qualifying Event this season. 25 Men, 33 Ladies, 11 Pairs and 16 Ice Dance couples competed 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 were allocated at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2017, and six more spots were available at Nebelhorn Trophy. 16 Olympic spots for Pairs were allocated at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2017 and five more spots were available at Nebelhorn Trophy. Originally four spots were available, but since France returned their second Pairs quota place, a fifth spot has opened up for the competitors at Nebelhorn Trophy. 19 Olympic spots for Ice Dance were allocated at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2017 and six more spots were available at Nebelhorn Trophy. Originally five spots

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL media@isu.ch

were available, but since Denmark returned their Ice Dance quota place, a sixth spot has opened up for the competitors at Nebelhorn Trophy.

For further information including [results](#) and follow the discussion on social media by using **#FigureSkating #NebelhornTrophy**.

For further information please contact:

Selina Vanier

ISU Communications Coordinator

media@isu.ch

Tel: +41 21 612 66 66