

Press release

28 October 2017

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18: Skate Canada International Day One

Canadian skaters looked strong on home ice, taking the lead in Ice Dance and Ladies as well as second place in Men's and Pairs as the competition Skate Canada International kicked off Friday in Regina with the Short Programs and the Short Dance. Skate Canada International in Regina (CAN) is the second event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2017/18.

Osmond (CAN) shines in Ladies Short Program

World silver medalist [Kaetlyn Osmond](#) (CAN) really shone in the Ladies Short Program Friday at Skate Canada International in Regina (CAN) to take a strong lead. Russia's [Anna Pogorilaya](#) trails the Canadian Champion by just over seven points and [Maria Sotskova](#), also of Russia, sits in third place after the first segment of the competition.

Osmond's jumps in her program, to 'Sous le ciel de Paris' and 'Milord', were big – a triple flip-triple toe combination, a triple Lutz and double Axel. The 21-year-old collected a level four for her spins and set a new personal best score of 76.06 points. "There are definitely a few things that I want to improve," Osmond said, "but for today I was happy that I was able to do what I do in practice, which is to focus on each element at a time. I felt confident on the ice and it all went very well today."

Pogorilaya's solid Flamenco routine featured a triple Lutz-triple toe combination, triple loop and a double Axel, but two spins and the footwork were rated a level three. The 2014 Skate Canada Champion earned 69.05 points. "I did everything I wanted to do quite calmly and with confidence," Pogorilaya said. "Obviously I realize it is not enough, but for today I am pleased. After Worlds (the 2017 World Figure Skating Championships, in which she finished 13th) I worked a lot on myself and I had to overcome many things in my training and inside myself. But nobody says that life is easy. You have get up and move on," the 2017 European silver medalist said.

Skating to 'Swan Lake', Sotskova produced a triple Lutz-triple toe combination and a triple flip, but she under-rotated the double Axel. The ISU Grand Prix Finalist scored 66.10 points. "There was an error on the double Axel that cost some points, but overall I am quite pleased," the 17-year-old said. "I showed the emotions in my program to the crowd and that is the most important thing for me right now. You work on the elements in practice, but in competition you want to show the beauty of skating."

[Courtney Hicks](#) (USA) landed a somewhat shaky triple flip-triple loop combination and sits in fourth on 64.06 points. U.S. Champion [Karen Chen](#) follows in fifth (61.77) ahead of [Rika Hongo](#) (JPN) with 61.60 points. 2016 World silver medalist [Ashley Wagner](#) (USA) under-rotated two jumps and is currently ranked seventh (61.57 points). 2017 World Junior silver medalist [Marin Honda](#) (JPN) fell on her triple Lutz-triple toe combination and singled the Axel to finish 10th (52.60 points).



Virtue/Moir (CAN) set new highest score in Short Dance at Skate Canada

Three-time and reigning World Champions [Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir](#) (CAN) continued their winning ways by taking the Short Dance at Skate Canada International Friday, setting a record score en route. Teammates [Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje](#) came second with another strong outing, edging 2014 Four Continents Champions [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) by a little over a point.

Virtue/Moir put out a precise and characteristic performance to samba, rumba and cha cha that was highlighted by fast twizzles, a smooth rumba pattern dance section and a rotational lift. The six-time Skate Canada Champions earned a level four for all five elements to post a personal best and record score of 82.68 points. “We had a great a summer and fall training and we were very confident, but to come here and execute is a kind of a different story,” Moir said. “A great off-season and a great start to the season creates some pressure, so it was nice for us to go out and execute very similar to the way we have been training. There are things we’re looking to improve, but for Tessa and I we are all smiles today.”

Weaver/Poje also looked sharp in their dance to Bolero and mambo, collecting a level four for the pattern dance step sequence, the rumba pattern, the twizzles and the curve lift. The two-time World medalists also recorded a personal best for themselves with 77.47 points. “We’ve undergone so many changes since our first event, and from this summer in general, that we almost were not able to get the short dance as much time as we would have liked,” Weaver told the post-event press conference. “We had a lot of pressure to make sure that this program lived up to our belief that it could be a great program and so we’re very happy to skate today with joy and energy, and feel the incredible reception from the crowd.”

Hubbell/Donohue, who skated last out of the ten couples, had the same levels for their elements as Weaver/Poje, but lost one point for a time violation. The 2014 Four Continents Champions scored 76.08 points. “Zach and I were very happy with our skate today,” Hubbell said. “We felt like we were getting more and more comfortable as the music was going and getting more into the program and enjoying skating together. It was a great start to our Grand Prix season.”

Olivia Smart/Adria Diaz (ESP) came fourth with 64.34 points followed by 2014 World Junior Champions [Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) on 63.10 points. 2017 World Junior silver medalists [Alla Loboda/Pavel Drozd](#) (RUS) debuted on the senior Grand Prix circuit with a solid Short Dance and are sixth with 62.60 points.

Uno (JPN) beats Chan (CAN) in Men’s Short Program

World silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#), of Japan, beat Canada’s three-time World Champion [Patrick Chan](#) for a clear lead in the Men’s Short Program at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Skate Canada on Friday. [Jason Brown](#) (USA) is in third place.

Uno produced his trademark quadruple flip, a quadruple-double toeloop combination as well as a triple Axel and collected a level four for his three spins in his routine to ‘Winter’ from ‘The Four Seasons’

by Antonio Vivaldi. The 19-year-old took the lead with 103.62 points. “I am quite satisfied with how I skated today,” Uno said. “Ever since the six minutes warm up I was able to move very well, but at the same time I was able to control it and that led to my skate.”

Even a missed flight and lost luggage didn’t sidetrack Chan. Skating to ‘Dust in the Wind’, the Canadian Champion hit a quadruple toe-triple toe combination, a triple Lutz and picked up a level four for his spins and a level three for his footwork. However, the 26-year-old touched down with his hand on the triple Axel. Chan, who won silver at the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, earned 94.43 points. At least his luggage with his costume that was lost on the way to Regina arrived in time for the competition.

“This week has been a little crazy with trying to get organized and settled,” Chan said. “I actually didn’t really feel comfortable until the six minutes warm up today. I’m really happy with the performance, with the situation I’ve been given, first event of the year. I actually enjoyed it and it was nice to stay on my feet.”

Brown’s performance to the upbeat ‘The Room Where It Happens’, from the musical ‘Hamilton’, included a triple Axel, triple Lutz, triple flip-triple toe as well as difficult spins and footwork. The 2015 U.S. Champion picked up 90.71 points, a season’s best. “It was a lot of fun tonight,” Brown said. “My goal was definitely to get out there and to be as clean and precise as possible. A few things weren’t as clean as I would have liked them to be, but I’m super excited with the performance and to take this experience for the rest of the season.”

[Alexander Samarin](#) (RUS), the 2017 World Junior bronze medalist, landed a quadruple Lutz-triple toeloop combination and quadruple toeloop in his debut at the senior Grand Prix to place fourth on 84.02 points. [Keegan Messing](#) (CAN) follows in fifth (82.17 points) while [Jorik Hendrickx](#) (BEL) completes the top six (82.08 points).

Savchenko/Massot (GER) skate to lead in Pairs Short Program

World Championship silver medalists [Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot](#), of Germany, skated into the lead in the Pairs Short Program as the first competition day at Skate Canada International concluded. Canada’s two-time World Champions [Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford](#) and [Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#), of France, the 2017 European bronze medalists, are almost tied in second and third place, respectively.

Savchenko/Massot’s crisp flamenco routine to ‘Ameksa - Fuego’ featured a huge triple twist, side by side triple Salchow and a spectacular level-four lift. However, Savchenko stumbled on landing from the throw triple Axel. The pair, who are also European championship silver medalists, achieved a season’s best with 77.34 points. “It is still the beginning of the season, so there were small mistakes,” Massot said. “But I think it is a good start. We just have to work more. This season we have worked a lot on the throw triple Axel and it was very good already. We’ll keep working and one day we’ll do it,” Savchenko added.



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Skating to U2's 'With Or Without You', Duhamel/Radford produced a triple twist and throw triple Lutz, but Duhamel doubled the side-by-side solo Lutz jump. The 2017 Four Continents silver medalists scored 73.53 points. "We felt really good out there, we love this short program," Duhamel said. "I'm really disappointed in my stupid mistake, but I will do a beautiful triple Lutz tomorrow. 90 percent of the focus in our training before this competition has been on our long program after our disastrous skate at Autumn Classics. Our main focus for this competition was to deliver a strong long program, so that's what we're going for tomorrow."

James/Cipres put on a sultry blues program to 'Make It Rain' by Ed Sheeran, landing a triple twist, side-by-side triple Salchow and throw triple Lutz to earn 73.04 points. "It is the first big competition, so we made some little mistakes, but we are happy with it," Cipres told the press. "It is everybody's goal to do a clean program, whether you are five points behind or 0.5. Everybody wants to win," James said when asked about the strategy heading into the long program.

[Natalia Zabiako/Alexander Enbert](#) (RUS) placed fourth with a clean program and 69.00 points. 2017 Four Continents bronze medalists [Liubov Ilyushechkina/Dylan Moscovitch](#) (CAN) finished fifth (64.06 points) followed by [Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier](#) (USA) on 63.26 points.

Skate Canada International continues Saturday with the Ladies Free Skating, Free Dance, Men and Pairs Free Skating. Skate Canada International is the second of six events in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series. The top six skaters/couples in each discipline qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya (JPN) in December. The global prize money for the Grand Prix is US\$272,000.

Full entry lists and results of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2017/18 are available [here](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#GPFigure #FigureSkating**.

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About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2017/18 Series

The **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating** Series started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six international senior invitational events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

The individual Grand Prix of Figure Skating Events are held in Canada, China, France, Japan, Russia and USA each season.



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The skaters are seeded and invited to the six Grand Prix of Figure Skating events based on the results of the previous ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Competitors collect points in their Grand Prix events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya (JPN) on December 7-10, 2017.