

Press release

29 October 2017

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

Canada's skating stars collected four medals, including three gold as the competition at Skate Canada International in Regina wrapped up Saturday. Skate Canada was the second of six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2017/18.

Osmond (CAN) wins battle of 'Black Swans' at Skate Canada

World silver medalist [Kaetlyn Osmond](#), of Canada, won the battle of 'Black Swans' as the Ladies event concluded with the Free Skating. Russia's [Maria Sotskova](#) claimed the silver medal and USA's [Ashley Wagner](#) jumped from seventh after the Short Program to the podium, taking the bronze.

Osmond – one of two skaters who performed to Tchaikovsky's classic – suffered a shaky start to her expressive program, stumbling badly on the back end of her triple flip-triple toe combo, but then rallied to land a double Axel-triple toe, triple Lutz and two more triples. However, the three-time Canadian Champion later doubled a flip and fell on a double Axel at the end. The 21-year-old scored 136.85 points and won with 212.91 points overall. "I am absolutely happy how today went, but in my long program I definitely have some work to do," Osmond said. "Overall, it was my best performance of the season, although some of the jumps did not work out very great."

Sotskova's fluid performance to 'Claire de Lune', by Claude Debussy, was highlighted by four clean triples, but she under-rotated a triple Lutz and a triple flip as well as a double Axel. The 2016 World Junior silver medalist earned 126.42 points for the Free Skating and totalled 192.52 points. "I am pleased with my performance, because I skated my program clean and I am happy with my score and my result," the 17-year-old said. "It is an important season, but I prepared for it like for any other season. I try not to think about it too much, because it would make me nervous."

Wagner gave a strong performance to 'Moulin Rouge', completing four clean triple jumps, but she under-rotated the toe in her triple flip-triple toe combination, as well as a triple loop. The 2016 World silver medalist picked up 122.37 points, contributing to her total score of 183.94 points. "Today was a really solid skate for me," Wagner said. "I think it was a nice checking point for me to see where I am at in the season and where I want to go. It was a huge stepping stone that is out of the way and I am looking forward to Skate America (November 24-26), being even stronger."

[Courtney Hicks](#) (USA) remained in fourth place on 182.57 points, while 2017 World Junior silver medalist [Marin Honda](#) (JPN) recovered from a faulty Short Program with a clean Free Skating to jump from tenth place to fifth on 178.24 points. Honda's compatriot, [Rika Hongo](#), came sixth (176.34 points), and [Anna Pogorilaya](#) (RUS), who had been in second place following the Short Program – and, like Osmond, skated to 'Black Swan' – failed to build on it and dropped to ninth (156.89 points).

Virtue/Moir (CAN) claim seventh Skate Canada title with record score

Three-time and reigning World Champions [Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir](#) (CAN) took their seventh Skate Canada title in Regina and set a record score. Teammates [Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje](#) edged out [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) by less than a point to clinch a Canadian one-two finish as the Ice Dance event concluded.

Virtue/Moir dazzled in their intense performance to ‘Tango de Roxanne’ and ‘Come What May’ from the ‘Moulin Rouge’ soundtrack that featured spectacular lifts and intricate footwork. The 2010 Olympic Champions collected a level four for the lifts, their fast twizzles and the spin, while their step sequences were rated a level three. The pair, who won silver at the 2014 Olympic Games, earned 117.18 points and raised the highest total score to 199.86 points. “We were anxious today, we were a little nervous,” Moir told the post-event press conference. “We wanted to perform well because this is a program we are emotionally attached to and we felt the pressure. We wanted to put on a show and start the year with a bang and it translated well. We’re looking forward to build on this experience for NHK Trophy in a couple of weeks (November 10-12, in Osaka, Japan).”

Weaver/Poje delivered a passionate performance to ‘Je suis malade’, executing beautiful lifts and well-synchronized levels. Like Virtue/Moir, the 2014 World silver medalists picked up a level four for their lifts, spin and twizzles, and a level three for their footwork. They lost one point for an extended lift and ranked third in the Free Dance at 112.54 points, but held on to second place with 190.01 points overall. The Canadians had changed their Free Dance following a competition earlier this fall. “We felt we had a great program with ‘Spartacus’, which was our original program this season, but there was something missing,” Weaver explained. “In an Olympic year we feel it’s very important for us to state our case immediately. It was brought to our attention by (coach) Nikolai (Morozov) that we needed to change and we felt right away that it was right. So there was a lot of dusting off to be done and the rules had changed as well, so we had to update several things. But ultimately this is the best we can be and this program, we feel, is very representative of ourselves and our team.”

Dancing to ‘Across the Sky’ and the bluesy ‘Caught Out in the Rain’, Hubbell/Donohue executed strong elements as well, gathering all level fours and threes, and finished second in the Free Dance with 113.35 points. Overall, they remained in third place at 189.43 points. “Zach and I are filled with gratitude – with gratitude for each other and for our team that has been training us so well,” Hubbell said. “It was a really good day for us and we’re looking forward to going back home and train more.”

2014 World Junior Champions [Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) moved up one spot to fourth with a dance set to Liszt’s ‘Liebestraum’. [Alla Loboda/Pavel Drozd](#), Russia’s 2017 World Junior silver medalists, ranked fifth in what was their debut at the ISU Grand Prix circuit (155.72 points), while [Olivia Smart/Adria Diaz](#) (ESP) slipped from fourth to sixth (154.81 points).

Japan's Uno No.1, breaks 300 points as Chan (CAN) misses out

Japan's [Shoma Uno](#) cracked 300 points at Skate Canada International to claim the third Grand Prix gold medal of his career. [Jason Brown](#) (USA) earned the silver medal and Russia's [Alexander Samarin](#) took the bronze in his debut at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating.

Performing to 'Turandot', Uno reeled off a quad loop, quad toe-triple toe combination and four clean triples including a triple Axel-triple flip combination, as well as two level-four spins. However, the World silver medalist fell out of an under-rotated quad toe, and two-footed his quad flip. The 19-year-old, who already has two ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medals to his name, collected 197.48 points and accumulated 301.10 points in total. "The overall performance in the Free Skating, like yesterday in the Short Program, is satisfactory at this point of the season," Uno said. "But I really need to improve my stamina. The mistakes on the quad toe and flip happened because I lacked stamina."

Brown produced six clean triples and exquisite spins and footwork in his routine to 'Inner Love', which was especially composed for him by Maxime Rodriguez. However, the 2015 U.S. Champion went down on an under-rotated quad toe. Brown scored 170.43 points and moved up one place at 261.14 points overall. "As of a whole this week, I'm really proud of the performances that I put out here," he said. "I definitely had a couple of hiccups here and there but I kept the integrity of the programs and it's nice to continue getting them out early on in this Grand Prix season."

Samarin's program to 'House of the Rising Sun' featured big jumps – a quad Lutz, quad toe and six triples. The 2017 World junior bronze medalist set a personal best with 166.04 points and totalled 250.06 points to take the bronze medal in his first senior Grand Prix event. "I am very happy with the result," Samarin said. "Honestly, I did not expect to end up on the podium in my debut at the Grand Prix. I am very pleased to have landed the quad Lutz in both programs because not so long ago I felt uncomfortable with it. I need to work on my components especially. Luckily, I don't have problems with the technical part."

Canada's three-time World Champion [Patrick Chan](#) fell on his opening quadruple toe and was unable to hold it together, doubling four jumps. It meant the 26-year-old missed out on the podium, dropping from second to fourth place (245.70 points). [Jorik Hendrickx](#) (BEL) came fifth with 237.31 points, followed by [Michal Brezina](#) (CZE) on 237.04 points.

Duhamel/Radford (CAN) soar to gold in Pairs Free

Canada's two-time World Champions [Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford](#) soared to gold with an impressive performance as the competition at Skate Canada International concluded with the Pairs Free Skating. World silver medalists [Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot](#), of Germany, took the silver medal while France's [Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#) earned the bronze.

Duhamel/Radford put out a dynamic and technically demanding program to 'Samson and Delilah' and 'Uprising' by Muse that was highlighted by a triple twist, side-by-side triple Lutz, quadruple throw

Salchow and difficult lifts. When the pair hit their final pose, the crowd at Regina's Brandt Center erupted in cheers and rose for a standing ovation. The Canadian Champions scored a season's best of 148.69 points and totaled 222.22 points. "We felt really good when we came into the rink tonight to perform," Duhamel said. "We have been training the long program so well, so we had a lot of confidence in the mileage that we had put into that Free Program over the last few weeks at home."

"It's really great for us to have that great skate here in Canada, because we're not going to have the opportunity to perform here at home many more times. We have just our Nationals left. So to be able to have that moment one more time in Canada is a special memory for us."

Savchenko/Massot's exquisite program to 'La Terre Vue du Ciel' featured a huge triple twist, a throw triple Salchow and throw double Axel as well as impressive lifts and unique transitions. However, Massot struggled with the solo jumps, popping the side-by-side Salchow into a single and landing forward on a triple toeloop. The Germans were ranked third in the Free Skating with 138.32 points, a season's best, and remained in second place overall at 215.66 points. "We were really well prepared for the long program, but some jumps were not working. We will keep on working but overall I am very positive," Savchenko said. Massot added: "I was pretty secure on my jumps the past few weeks, but competition is like this. We have to control the stress and the pressure."

Skating to 'Say Something' and 'Sense of Freedom' James/Cipres delivered, hitting a triple twist, triple toe-double toe-double toe combination, triple Salchow and throw triple Lutz. James two-footed only the throw quadruple Salchow. The French Champions earned 141.33 points for their Free Skating which gave them 214.37 points overall. "We are very happy with the result, this is our first Grand Prix podium outside France," Cipres said. "I think it was a great battle this week between the Germans, the Canadians and us. We still have a lot of stuff to work on and we want to keep going like this and see what is going to happen."

Natalia Zabiiako/Alexander Enbert (RUS) remained in fourth place with 192.70 points. Cheng Peng/Yang Jin (CHN) moved up from seventh to fifth (182.50 points) and Liubov Ilyushechkina/Dylan Moscovitch (CAN) finished sixth (176.35 points).

Skate Canada International concludes Sunday with the Exhibition Gala. 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. The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series continues next week with the Audi Cup of China in Beijing.

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**.



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

For further information please contact:

Selina Vanier
ISU Communications Coordinator
media@isu.ch
Tel: +41 21 612 66 66

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.