

Press release

17 November 2017

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18: Internationaux de France Day One

Two-time World Champions [Gabiella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA), Spain's [Javier Fernandez](#), World silver medalist [Kaetlyn Osmond](#) (CAN) and European Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS) took the lead as the Internationaux de France de Patinage opened Friday in Grenoble (FRA) with the Short Programs and the Short Dance.

The Internationaux de France de Patinage is the fifth of six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2017/18. A total of 58 skaters/couples from 15 ISU members compete in France.

Osmond (CAN) captures Ladies Short Program in Grenoble

World silver medalist [Kaetlyn Osmond](#), of Canada, captured the Ladies Short Program. Russia's [Maria Sotskova](#) is close behind in second place followed by [Yuna Shiraiwa](#), of Japan.

Skating to 'Sous le ciel de Paris' and 'Milord', Osmond landed a triple flip-double toe and a triple Lutz, but the combination was shaky and she put her hand down on the Lutz. The Canadian Champion recovered to complete a double Axel as well as level-four spins and footwork to score 69.05 points. "Definitely there were a few things in my program I'm not too excited about," Osmond said. "Missing the combo at the beginning and then having a little mistake on my Lutz, I wish I would have done those better, but overall I pushed through my whole program and I'm happy about where I am. I can't wait for tomorrow.

"I didn't feel any extra nerves today. I felt very confident going into my Short Program. Mistakes happen now and then. The Short Program has been going well all season and last time I made a few mistakes in the short it ended up the best event I had. So maybe that's a lead up for that," the World silver medalist said.

Sotskova's routine to 'Swan Lake' was highlighted by a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, a solid double Axel as well as two level-four spins, but she stumbled on her triple flip. The Skate Canada silver medalist still managed a season's best with 67.79 points. "It felt easy to skate and I enjoyed performing today, however I made an error on the triple flip and I'm upset about it," the 2016 World Junior silver medalist said. "I did not feel especially nervous because of the (Grand Prix) Final. I was very calm. Actually I started worrying that I was too calm," she added.

Shiraiwa produced a triple Lutz-triple toe, a triple flip and double Axel in her program to 'The Girl With Flaxen Hair' by Claude Debussy to pick up a personal best of 66.05 points. "This was the best performance of the season so far and I feel relieved," the 15-year-old said. "I had little time to prepare



INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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

between NHK Trophy and here, so my first priority was to condition my body. I also prepared mentally and did some meditation and I think it helped.”

2017 Four Continents Champion [Mai Mihara](#) (JPN) stumbled out of her combination and hit the boards to come fourth on 64.57 points. 2017 World Junior Champion [Alina Zagitova](#) (RUS), who won the Cup of China earlier this month, stands in fifth place after falling on her triple Lutz and stumbling on her combination (62.46 points). [Elizabet Tursynbaeva](#) (KAZ) completes the top six (62.29 points). 2015 World Champion [Elizaveta Tuktamysheva](#) (RUS) fell on her triple Axel and popped her Lutz to place 11th (53.03 points).

Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA) set personal best in Short Dance

Two-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#), of France, skated to a confident lead in the Short Dance, setting a personal-best score en route. [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) finished in second, keeping alive their chances for the Grand Prix Final. Russia’s [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) placed third in the first segment of the competition.

Dancing to ‘Shape of You’ and ‘Thinking Out Loud’, by Ed Sheeran, Papadakis/Cizeron produced strong footwork and a straight line lift. They earned a level four for the rhumba pattern, the side-by-side step sequence, the twizzles and the lift while the pattern step sequence was rated a level three. The three-time European Champions slightly improved their personal best with 81.40 points.

“It was a lot of fun to perform to this great audience today and we’re very happy with our points. It’s a season’s best and we’re confident about our improvement. There is still a lot of room for improvement, but we’re very happy with tonight,” Cizeron said. “This year we wanted to have a Short Dance that was really like us and that we can relate a lot more to than usual. We love the song, we love the choreography and we have really fun with it. We knew that our weak point often was the technique in the Short Dance and we worked a lot on it this summer,” Papadakis added.

Chock/Bates’ characteristic dance to salsa, rhumba and samba by Mark Anthony featured level-four twizzles and a level-four curve lift, but the other three elements merited a level three. The two-time World medalists posted a season’s best with 73.55 points. “We’re very pleased with the way we skated. I think we’re getting more comfortable with the program – it’s the second time we’ve competed it. It maybe wasn’t as strong technically as in China, but it was a season’s best as far as the score,” Bates said.

Stepanova/Bukin put in a strong performance to samba and rhumba as well, collecting a level four for the twizzles and the curve lift, but the rhumba pattern garnered only a level two. The Rostelecom Cup bronze medalists earned 70.02 points. “We’ve worked a lot with ballroom dance teachers. I’m not sure that we are moving as well as Gabriella and Guillaume, but we’re trying our best,” Bukin commented.

[Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#) (ITA) are currently ranked fourth on 69.73 points. [Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje](#) (CAN) came fifth after Poje missed the twizzles (68.94 points). [Elliana Pogrebinsky/Alex Benoit](#) (USA) finished sixth (60.64).

Tarasova/Morozov (RUS) take Pairs Short Program at Internationaux de France

European Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#), of Russia, took the Pairs Short Program as the Internationaux de France de Patinage continued in Grenoble Friday. France's [Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#) are trailing the leaders by a little over four points and are in second place. Italians [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) came third.

Performing to Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2, Tarasova/Morozov nailed a huge triple twist, a side-by-side triple toe and throw triple loop. The World bronze medalists collected a level four for the twist, lift, spin, footwork and death spiral to achieve a season's-best score of 77.84 points. The Muscovites received a one-point deduction for a timing violation.

"We skated good but it was not the best," Morozov said. "We made a little mistake in the last element (step sequence), but overall we are happy to see our progress and to be on the right way in this important season." Asked about their music choice, he said: "We like this music, it is strong and impressive. We skate well with this music. We are in harmony with Rachmaninov."

James/Cipres' program to 'Make It Rain', by Ed Sheeran, featured a triple twist, side-by-side triple Salchow as well as a throw triple Lutz. The European bronze medalists earned 73.18 points for their efforts. "We're pretty happy with the performance and to skate for our public at home. (We made a) mistake on the (throw) flip and probably a few levels lost. We have to work on that. So we'll have to pay more attention to not lose points. I think that's our weakness lately," James said. "Other than that, we're very proud with our Short Program performance."

Della Monica/Guarise produced a side-by-side triple Salchow, triple twist and throw triple loop in their program to 'Magnificat', to pick up a personal best of 70.65 points. "It was so far our best performance this season but it still is not the perfect program that we can do," Della Monica told the post-event press conference. "We skated relaxed and did what we do in practice, so we're pretty satisfied."

[Liubov Ilyushechkina/Dylan Moscovitch](#) (CAN) finished fourth on 66.36 points, followed by [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) (CHN) on 62.40 points.

Fernandez (ESP) soars past field in Men's Short Program

Two-time World Champion [Javier Fernandez](#), of Spain, soared past the field in the Men's Short Program at the Internationaux de France de Patinage Friday, looking for redemption after his sub-par performances at the Audi Cup of China where he was taken ill. Japan's World silver medalist [Shoma](#)

[Uno](#) is almost 14 points behind in second place and Russian [Alexander Samarin](#) completes the top three after the Short Program.

Fernandez opened his Charlie Chaplin routine with a quad toe-triple toe combination and followed up with a quad Salchow, triple Axel as well as level-four spins and footwork. The five-time European Champion posted a season's best with 107.86 points for a strong lead. "It was a good day," the two-time World Champion said. "After my first Grand Prix, I needed a good skate and to be able to smile. It is sometimes hard with all the work and the pressure. The competition isn't done yet. We still have tomorrow – that is going to be even harder – but I think we started this competition with the right direction and I'm excited for tomorrow to finish this competition with a very good result," the 26-year-old added.

Skating to 'Winter' from 'Four Seasons', Uno landed a quad toe-triple toe and a triple Axel, but crashed on his under-rotated quadruple flip. The World silver medalist collected level fours for his spins and footwork and picked up 93.92 points. "Today it was a very hard Short Program for me," Uno said. "I hope that tomorrow in the Free Program I'll be able to show much more. I haven't been able to watch the video yet, but while I was skating, it was very difficult and I was so concentrated on the jumps, because it was so hard. But I was happy to see my component scores were all 9s."

Samarin's performance to a modern arrangement of 'Moonlight Sonata' featured a quad toe and triple Axel, but he under-rotated the quad Lutz in combination with a triple toe. With 91.51 points, the 2017 World Junior bronze medalist improved on his previous personal best significantly.

"I am satisfied with the performance, but I understand that I could do even better than that," the 19-year-old commented. "But I'm happy that I established a new personal best. Right now I don't feel any special emotions because the competition isn't over yet and the most interesting will happen tomorrow."

[Moris Kvitelashvili](#) (GEO) is ranked fourth on 86.98 points. NHK Trophy bronze medalist [Alexei Bychenko](#) (ISR) is not far behind in fifth place on 86.79 points and [Misha Ge](#) (UZB) finished sixth (85.41 points).

The Internationaux de France de Patinage continue Saturday with Ladies Free Skating, Free Dance, Pairs and Men's Free Skating.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events and culminates in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Nagoya (JPN) in December. The top six skaters/couples in each discipline qualify for the Final. 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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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