



Press release

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Kramer (NED) and Pechstein (GER) win long distance races

After two days of short-distance racing, the endurance skaters took to the ice on the final day of the ISU World Cup Speed Skating in Stavanger on Sunday. Sven Kramer (NED) took 10000m gold after an epic battle with Canada's Ted-Jan Bloemen, and 45-year-old Claudia Pechstein (GER) won her first World Cup title since 2014 with gold in the Ladies 5000m. Canada and Korea took the honors in the concluding Team Sprint events.

Kramer versus Bloemen

Sven Kramer (NED) won the first and only 10000m race of the season before the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games in an epic battle with world record holder Ted-Jan Bloemen (CAN). Erik-Jan Kooiman (NED) grabbed the bronze medal.

Just as in last week's 5000m in Heerenveen, Kramer faced Bloemen in the final pairing, and the Dutchman managed to beat Bloemen on that occasion with an acceleration in the final laps. It did not stop the Canadian from starting fast in this week's 10000m, however, as Bloemen took an early lead over Kramer. "I had not expected that, but you have to be prepared for everything," Kramer said.

"I do understand why he did that. He wants me to make the quick effort to bridge that gap to force myself too much too early. But I'm experienced and he is too.

"We're both too good for that, so I kept him in sight without forcing too much. We keep a look at each other's lap times and then it all comes down to the final eight laps."

In those final eight laps Kramer managed to bridge the gap and overhaul Bloemen.

With two laps to go, Kramer was still a little behind, but Bloemen was not able to counter Kramer's 30.3 and 29.5 in the final 800m.

Kramer posted 12:50.97 for a track record and Bloemen stopped the clock at 12:52.64. Kooiman finished in 12:57.13.

Despite having to bow his head for Kramer again, Bloemen did not regret his tactics:

"When I skate to the best of my abilities, I have the best chance to win. I just try to skate as fast as I can every time out there and then we'll see where that gets me."



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Despite his two silver World Cup medals this season, Bloemen aims at Olympic gold in February.

“I keep up the good work and if I’m able to skate my best race at the Olympics, I certainly could win a gold medal.”

Gold and track record for Pechstein (GER)

Germany’s Claudia Pechstein won 5000m gold in a track-record six minutes, 56.60 seconds. Ivanie Blondin, of Canada, took silver in an entertaining battle with Irene Schouten (NED), and Martina Sáblíková (CZE) clinched the bronze.

Pechstein, Blondin and Sáblíková were the only skaters to stay under seven minutes. Isabelle Weidemann (CAN) came fourth in 7:00.82 and Schouten posted 7:01.03 to end up fifth.

The 45-year-old Pechstein’s previous World Cup victory was in Seoul, in November 2014.

“I’m still very happy. I’m happy with every time I won because it’s unbelievable to be on top at my age. Some of the other athletes could be my daughters. It’s good to still be up there. I’m really proud of myself.”

What’s in store for Pechstein this season?

“It’s only November so we shouldn’t talk about February (when the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games begin) just yet. But I was born in February and I know that I’m always good in that month.”

Blondin held off her favorite opponent, Irene Schouten, in the penultimate pairing, after Pechstein had already clocked her record time.

“I don’t know how many laps in she started to go a little bit faster. She was trying to break me, we were both trying to break each other and in the end, I ended up a little bit stronger,” Blondin said.

“But it could have been the other way around. You never know what’s going to happen in the 5000m.”

Blondin was still on gold-medal pace heading into the final lap, but her 34.4s couldn’t match Pechstein’s final lap of 33.2s.

“I was really tired and rather than keeping the focus on my technique, I was trying too hard to go as fast as I can. In Speed Skating if you try too hard, you end up going slower.”

Blondin’s silver medal placed her on top of the combined 3000/5000m World Cup ranking.

“I’m very happy. That’s something I’ve never accomplished before,” she said.



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Canada and Korea take team sprint honors

Canada took a second successive World Cup victory in the Men's Team Sprint on Sunday in Stavanger. Korea grabbed gold in the Ladies Team Sprint after clinching bronze last week in Heerenveen.

The Canadian men started in a different line-up than last week in the first leg of the World Cup, when Laurent Dubreuil, Alexandre St-Jean and Vincent de Haître took the honors.

"The team is selected based on the performances in that particular World Cup weekend," Dubreuil explained.

That's why Dubreuil himself, who won the second 500m race in Heerenveen last week, was left out of the line-up in Stavanger, after posting a thirteenth and a seventh place this week.

Gilmore Junio, Alex Boiosvert-Lacroix and Vincent de Haître skated for Canada in Stavanger and they stopped the clock at one minute, 19.52 seconds.

Norway took silver with Bjørn Magnussen, Henrik Fagerli Rukke and Håvard Lorentzen in 1:19.84. USA's Mitchell Whitmore, Jonathan Garcia and Joey Mantia took bronze in 1:20.58.

The Korean ladies Min Sun Kim, Hyun-Yung Kim and Seung-Hi Park stopped the clock at 1:28.09 to take gold in the absence of last week's winners, Russia.

Norway took the Ladies' silver in 1:28.48 with Anne Gulbrandsen, Hege Bøkko and Ida Njåtun.

The bronze medal went to Canada's Marsha Hudey, Kaylin Irvine and Kali Christ in 1:28.85.

Full [results and classifications](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#WCSpeedSkating** and **#SpeedSkating** and watch the live stream on the [ISU Skating Channel](#).

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About ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2017/18 Series

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating is a series of international Speed Skating competitions which takes place annually. The Series started in 1984 and usually consists of six or seven events including the ISU World Cup.



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Speed Skating Final. Skaters can earn points at each competition, and the skater who has the most points on a given distance at the end of the series is the World Cup winner of that distance. Skaters also cumulate Grand World Cup points each time they compete in a distance. During the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final, the Lady and the Man with the most Grand World Cup points is crowned the Grand World Cup winner. The results on the individual distances in the World Cup ranking are the main qualifying method for the ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships.

A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season, for Men: 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, combined 5000 m / 10000 m, Team Pursuit, Mass Start and Team Sprint. For Ladies 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, the combined 3000 m / 5000 m, Team Pursuit, Mass Start and Team Sprint.