



## Press release

18 March 2018

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### ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2018 Day 1 Review

One month ago, South Korea hosted the world. On Saturday day, the country's short track speed skaters looked set to conquer it.

Four of the country's skaters earned five medals on the opening day of competition at the 2018 World Championships in Montreal, Canada, including three gold. Choi Min Jeong led the way with two golds (Ladies' 1500m and 500m) in the two events she had yet to finish first at the World Championships, and Hwang Dae Heon (gold, Men's 500m), Shim Suk Hee (silver, Ladies' 1500m), and Lim Hyo Jun (silver, Men's 1500m) also skated their way on to the podium.

"We trained very hard and are honoured to do so well because of that," said Lim. "We're very happy."

#### Choi leads day one medal charge for South Korea

Choi started the medal rush when she skated by Canada's Kim Boutin, the home favourite, followed by her teammate Shim, just over one tenth of a second behind in second place.

Boutin won bronze.

The win came after Choi clinched two Olympic gold medals just weeks earlier on home soil at Pyeongchang 2018. "I didn't expect this," she said. "After the Olympic Games, there wasn't much time to prepare because I was recovering."

The Ladies' 1500-metre event also turned out to be memorable for Russia's Sofia Prosvirnova. The 20-year-old came fifth, her highest result to date in senior international competition.

"I'm improving every year," she grinned, on learning of the new career mark. "I feel great about my 1500. To get in the top five, it means a lot to me."

#### Hamelin sends home fans home happy

The sellout crowd roared as the Men's 1500 A Final entered its final stages. Charles Hamelin, who earlier in the week announced he was not quite yet ready to hang up his skates for good, paced his race perfectly, overtaking Lim Hyo Jun (KOR) with two laps remaining to clinch his 10th World Championship gold medal.

"I think the world understands now why I wanted to keep skating," he said. "People across Canada, Quebec and throughout the world understand my decision now. They see what I'm still capable of."

It was Canada's only medal of that final, with teammate Samuel Girard penalized for impeding another skater.

For Lim, it was no poor second. "I'm so happy to have this medal because this is my first World Championship," he said.

#### Choi on the double for the second time in 2018

Choi made her way to the top of the podium for the second time in the space of just a few hours with a dominant performance in the Ladies' 500-metre Final. After Boutin fell with three laps to go, Poland's

Natalia Maliszewska held the lead until the South Korean made her move with just under two laps to go, to pull well clear

"Today, I'm very, very happy," she said. "500 metres is a hard distance but I got good results."

Maliszewska was thrilled with her silver medal. "It's the first medal from the World Championships in the 500 in the history of Poland," said the 22-year-old, participating in only her second World Championship at the senior level. "I'm writing history again because I also won a silver medal three years ago here in Montreal in the World Cup, also in the 500.

"I can't believe it happened. I'm not used to things like that. I'm so happy."

#### **Debutant Hwang saves the best for last**

Hwang Dae Heon capped off a great day for South Korea with perhaps the most impressive performance of all. Staying hot on the tail of China's Ren Ziwei, who led for most of the race, the 18-year-old glided to the head of the pack on the final lap, earning gold at his first World Championships.

"I feel very good and proud," Hwang said. "But since there are still other events, I'm happy but also focused on those to come."

On day 2 of competition, the Men's and Ladies' 1000 metres and 3000 metres will be decided, as well the Ladies' 3000m relay and Men's 5000m relay in front of another full house at Maurice Richard Arena.

"The crowd, everyone's really into it," Maliszewska said. "When someone's passing, they're screaming loud. It's awesome. It's similar to the Olympics."

Find results and classifications [here](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#ShortTrackSkating** and **#WorldShortTrack** watch the live stream on the [ISU Skating Channel](#).

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#### **About the ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2017**

The ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships have both a single distance and allround format. A total of 10 World titles are up for grabs, Ladies and Men 500m, 1000m, 1500m, allround and Team Relay.

The allround classification is based on the results of each skater in the three individual distances 500m, 1000m and 1500m. After the completion of the three distances the top eight-point scorers and ties on the eighth position will skate the 3000m Super Final. For the individual distances the final points 34, 21, 13, 8, 5, 3, 2 and 1 are awarded to Final A and Final B Skaters in descending order. In the case of a penalty or did not finish in the Final A, the skater(s) concerned will be awarded points equal to the winner of the Final B. In the case of a penalty in the Final B, the skater(s) concerned will not be awarded any points. No points are awarded to skaters who receive a yellow or red card or did not start the race.