



Press release

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Lorentzen and Takagi on top after long season

Håvard Holmefjord Lorentzen (NOR) and Miho Takagi took home the Grand World Cup after already having taken an unassailable lead in the rankings on Saturday. They were the first Norwegian and Japanese skaters to take the overall victory since the inauguration of the Grand World Cup in the 2011/12 season.

Takagi celebrated her Grand World Cup with gold in her last 1500m race on Sunday, while Lorentzen had to settle for fourth place in the 500m, behind a second Dutch podium sweep this weekend in Minsk.

Another Dutch sweep in the 500m

Jan Smeeckens took one step up on the podium on Sunday. After Saturday's silver the reigning World Champion took gold in 34.83 on Sunday. His countryman Dai Dai Ntab came second in 34.94 and Saturday's winner Hein Otterspeer had to settle for third place in 34.97. Lorentzen took another 90 points in fourth place to seize the 500m World Cup with 716 points. Otterspeer came second with 568 points and Ronald Mulder (NED) third with 556 points.\

Pedersen surprises World Cup winner Yuskov

Sverre Lunde Pedersen could not keep Denis Yuskov (RUS) off the 1500m World Cup, but the Norwegian did surprise the Russian, who had won all four 1500m World Cup races he started this season. Pedersen won in 1:45.47, 0.17 ahead of Yuskov. It was Pedersen's second 1500m World Cup win of the season, but he hadn't beaten Yuskov the first time because the Russian had withdrawn from the race in Stavanger. Pedersen's compatriot and fresh Junior World Champion Allan Dahl Johansson took the bronze in 1:45.99. Yuskov took home the World Cup with 520 points, versus 385 for Pedersen and Dutchman Thomas Krol, who came fourth in 1:46.38, took third place with 320 points.

Schouten takes first win, Swings carries home the Cup

In the Mass Start Simon Schouten took his first career World Cup win. The Dutchman left fellow escape Shota Nakamura (JPN) with five laps to go. The Japanese skater managed to stay ahead of the pack too and finished second. Danila Semerikov (RUS) took bronze, while Olympic silver medalist Bart Swings (BEL) carried home the World Cup, after finishing fourth. He overhauled absent Olympic Champion Seung-Hoon Lee (KOR) in the classification.

In the Bjørn Magnussen, Henrik Rukke and Håvard Lorentzen (NOR) finished in 1:20.89 to beat Poland (1:22.11) and Russia (1:22.54). Norway thus conquered the World Cup, with Russia coming second and absent Canada ending up third.

Herzog keeps Kodaira off World Cup

In the 500m three ladies' were still aiming to keep the unbeaten, but absent World Cup leader and Olympic Champion Nao Kodaira (JPN) off the overall win. After her win on Saturday Karolina Erbanova (CZE) seemed to be in pole position, but she only came fourth on Sunday, leaving the World Cup to Herzog, for whom a second place in 38.11 was sufficient. Golikova won in 38.08, with compatriot Olga Fatkulina taking the bronze in 38.20. Herzog, Erbanova and Golikova overtook Kodaria in the standings in that particular order.

Takagi immaculate

In the 1500m Takagi maintained her immaculate record for the season. Except to the Erfurt race in January, when she was absent, the Japanese skater won all World Cup 1500m races this season to win the World Cup. Marrit Leenstra (NED) came second for the fourth time this season and also took second place in the World Cup ranking. Lotte van Beek took third to end up fourth in the classification. Yekaterina Shikhova (RUS), who came sixth in Minsk, took third place overall.

Lollobrigida rewarded for consistency

In the Mass Start Sato defeated Ivanie Blondin (CAN) in a two-horse sprint after the couple had taken a small lead over the rest of the bunch in the final lap. Blondin, who won the Mass Start World Cup last year, thus had to settle for third place in the overall ranking, behind silver medalist Sato and winner Lollobrigida, who won one race and proved to be most consistent throughout the season.

The Russian ladies once more proved to be the best in the Team Sprint, collecting their season's third gold medal and the World Cup, beating the Netherlands and Norway in Minsk. Norway took overall silver and the Netherlands finished third in the classification.

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 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.



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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.