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Last Juniors book ticket for ISU Junior Grand Prix Final in Vancouver

The ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Yerevan, Armenia, was the last chance for skaters to book their tickets to the Final in Vancouver, that will take place from December 6 – 9, 2018.

Alexandra Trusova (RUS) lands quad Lutz

On her way to her second Junior Grand Prix gold medal this season, Russia's <u>Alexandra Trusova</u> became the first female skater to land a quadruple Lutz in international competition. The quad Lutz, performed in her Free Skating to "<u>The Fifth Element</u>", was somewhat shaky, but fully rotated. The reigning World Junior Champion also produced seven triples, two double Axels and level-four spins to win with more than 30 points to spare ahead of teammate <u>Alena Kanysheva</u>. The 14-year-old racked up 221.00 points. Trusova already led following the <u>Short Program</u>. "My free includes three quads, but since I had been sick and did not get into top shape, we made the program easier and I skated it in Yerevan only with one quad Lutz," Trusova said. "I am very happy that I was able to perform this jump clean and that it was recognized as rotated. I will recover, get into shape, skate my program a 100 percent and get ready for my next competitions," she added. Watch the ISU Skating Channel's interview with Trusova here.

Kanysheva ranked second in the <u>Short Program</u> with a clean performance that included a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination. She came third in the <u>Free Skating</u> with five clean triples, but underrotated two other triples. Overall the 13-year-old remained in second place at 187.55 points to earn her second silver medal on the Junior circuit. <u>Yuhana Yokoi</u> (JPN) moved up from sixth to claim the bronze medal at 184.09 points, her first Junior Grand Prix medal.

Defending ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion Trusova returns to the Final and is joined by last year's silver and bronze medalists <u>Alena Kostornaia</u> (RUS) and <u>Anastasia Tarakanova</u> (RUS). Kanysheva and <u>Anna Shcherbakova</u> (RUS) as well as <u>Yelim Kim</u> (KOR) qualified for their first Junior Final. Shcherbakova landed a quadruple Lutz in a domestic competition a few days before Trusova.

Siao Him Fa (FRA) strikes first Junior Grand Prix gold

Adam Siao Him Fa (FRA) skated to his first gold medal in the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating. The Frenchman sat in third following the Short Program to "Archangel" and "Star Sky" by Two Steps from Hell when he stumbled on his triple Axel. Skating to "Weight of Love" in the Free Skating, Siao Him Fa produced two clean triple Axels and a quad toe-triple toe (he stepped out of the triple), but fell on the second quad toe. The 17-year-old scored 205.83 points to take the gold and qualify for his first Junior Final. "I felt some pressure," the student of 2007 World Champion Brian Joubert (FRA) admitted. "I remained focused until the end of the program and there was no point in the program when I thought it was over. My goal for the season are Junior Worlds." Watch the interview with the champion on the ISU Skating Channel.

Yuma Kagiyama (JPN) won the <u>Free Skating</u> landing eight triple jumps and surged from sixth to second with 202.02 points, taking his first Junior Grand Prix medal. The bronze went to <u>Iliya Kovler</u> (CAN) with 201.20 points, who also made the podium for the first time. <u>Andrei Mozalov</u> (RUS), who had won last week in Ljubljana, missed his chance to make the Final when he finished sixth.

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Siao Him Fa is the only competitor from Yerevan that qualified for Vancouver. He will compete in his first Final and will face defending silver medalist <u>Camden Pulkinen</u> (USA) as well as <u>Petr Gumennik</u> (RUS), <u>Tomoki Hiwatashi</u> (USA), <u>Andrew Torgashev</u> (USA) and <u>Koshiro Shimada</u> (JPN).

Ushakova/Nekrasov (RUS) dance to gold and into Junior Final

Arina Ushakova/Maxim Nekrasov of Russia confidently danced to the gold medal and into the Junior Final with almost eight points advantage over Marina Kazakova/Georgy Reviya (GEO). The Russians picked up a level four for the Argentine Tango Pattern Dance, the twizzles and their rotational lift in the Rhythm Dance to Libertango and a Flamenco. Their upbeat Free Dance to "Black Cat White Cat" was highlighted by level-four twizzles and lifts, however, the diagonal step sequence merited a level two. The World Junior bronze medalists accumulated 172.81 points overall. "The Grand Prix series is done, but the most interesting is still to come – the Final. We focused as usual on the event in Yerevan and any other place than first would have been not a satisfying result for us," Nekrasov commented. "The Final is next, this means a new goal. There is enough time before the Final to improve and we're ready to work hard," Ushakova added.

Kazakova/Reviya turned in two strong performances as well to claim silver with 164.65 points. It was their second silver on the circuit and they are the first ice dancers from Georgia to qualify for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only single skater Elene Gedevanishvili (GEO) was in the Junior Final once in 2006. <u>Ellie Fisher/Simon-Pierre Malette-Paquette</u> (CAN) took the bronze, their first medal on the junior circuit (152.46 points).

In the Junior Final, Ushakova/Nekrasov and Kazakova/Reviya will meet <u>Elizaveta Khudaiberdieva/Nikita Nazarov</u> (RUS), <u>Avonley Ngyuen/Vadym Kolesnik</u> (USA), <u>Sofia Shevchenko/Igor Eremenko</u> (RUS) and Majorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha (CAN).

Overall, 78 skaters and couples from 30 ISU members competed at Armenian Cup in Yerevan: 21 Junior Men, 27 Junior Ladies and 15 Junior Ice Dance couples.

The ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series culminates with the Junior Final December 6 to 9 in Vancouver (CAN). Full <u>entry lists, results, the General Announcement</u> of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series are available on isu.org.

The Junior Pairs competed in four events and the six qualifiers for the Final are the five Russian teams <u>Anastasia Mishina/Aleksandr Galliamov</u>, <u>Kseniia Akhanteva/Valerii Kolesov</u>, <u>Polina Kostiukovich/Dmitri Ialin</u>, <u>Apollinariia Panfilova/Dmitry Rylov</u> as well as <u>Anastasia Poluianova/Dmitry Sopot</u> plus <u>Sarah Feng/TJ Newman</u> (USA).

In total, 105 Junior Men, 169 Junior Ladies, 27 Junior Pairs and 66 Junior Ice Dance couples representing 64 ISU Members competed in the Junior Series this season.

Junior Grand Prix livestream

The ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events are live streamed on the official <u>ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating YouTube Channel</u>. Additionally, all performances since 2011 are available on demand.

<u>Subscribe</u> to the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating YouTube Channel to receive all the latest videos and follow the conversation with #JGPFigure.