

October 22, 2018

Lausanne, SUI

Hubbell/Donohue (USA), Miyahara (JPN) take Skate America crowns

World silver medalists [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) and Japan's [Satoko Miyahara](#) claimed gold as Skate America wrapped up in Everett, Washington (USA) Sunday. Skate America was the first of six events in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series.

Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue (USA) top Ice Dance podium of firsts

The Ice Dance event produced several firsts: [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) danced to the first Grand Prix gold medal of their career while silver medalists [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#) of Italy and bronze medalists [Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro](#) of Russia made the podium at a Grand Prix event for the first time.

Performing to "Romeo and Juliet", Hubbell/Donohue put out a strong dance that was highlighted by smooth footwork, difficult lifts and interesting choreographic elements. The World silver medalists collected a level four for their lifts, the spin and the twizzles. The U.S. Champions scored 122.39 points for their Free Dance and totaled 200.82 points. "Zach and I put in a lot of work since our first competition in Salt Lake to really dive into the emotions of Romeo and Juliet and to put more skating quality, more power into the program. I think we were able to show those changes well, but we're also looking forward to more and more improvement and hopefully have a cleaner skate next week in Skate Canada," Hubbell said.

Guignard/Fabbri danced to the "La La Land" soundtrack and produced five level-four elements to earn 117.29 points. Overall, they accumulated 192.30 points. "We felt a lot better than last night. Even though the legs were more tired, but we probably were a bit more focused," Fabbri said. "It (the first Grand Prix medal) is a great reward for us. We started from zero when Charlene and I started skating together. I had just started ice dance and she didn't have international experience. We are proud of what we have achieved."

Zagorski/Guerreiro's dance to "Blues for Klook" featured level-four lifts and twizzles and a level-four spin. However, the team from Moscow lost two points for extended lifts. They ranked fourth in the Free Dance on 108.08 points, but overall held on to third place with 181.38 points. "We didn't know what was going to happen in the free dance today. We haven't had this many free dance run-throughs under our belts, so we just kind of prayed and hoped for the best. Overall, it's a good start," Guerreiro said.

2016 World Junior Champions [Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter](#) (USA) were third in the Free Dance, but remained fourth overall on 180.57 points. [Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson](#) (GBR) placed fifth (170.70 points).

Satoko Miyahara (JPN) repeats as Skate America Champion

[Satoko Miyahara](#) of Japan repeated as Skate America Champion, taking back-to-back titles in the event. Teammate [Kaori Sakamoto](#) made it a one-two finish for the Japanese Ladies, grabbing the silver medal, while Russian Grand Prix debutant [Sofia Samodurova](#) skated to the bronze.

Performing to “Invierno Porteno” by Astor Piazzolla, Miyahara reeled off seven triples, including a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination as well as excellent spins and footwork to score 145.85 points. The World bronze medalist totaled 219.71 points. “I am very happy to skate very clean today. I was very nervous until the very end of the program, because I have jumps until the end. I hope I’ll have more confidence in my next competition,” the 20-year-old told the post-event press conference.

Sakamoto delivered an excellent performance to “The Piano” by Michael Nyman, hitting a triple flip-triple toeloop combination and five more triple jumps. The 2018 Four Continents Champion earned 142.61 points, which added up to 213.90 points overall. “I am very satisfied with my performance today and I hope it will encourage me for my future competitions. I will keep working hard towards my next Grand Prix in Finland,” the 18-year-old said.

Like the top two, Samodurova was flawless in her routine to the “Burlesque” soundtrack and completed seven triples. She earned 134.29 points and accumulated 198.70 points overall. “I am very happy to skate clean. I hoped that I would be in third place after the free skating today, but I think nothing changed in my approach,” the skater from St. Petersburg said.

U.S. champion [Bradie Tennell](#) moved up from fifth to fourth place with a solid skate (192.89 points), followed by [Laurine Lecavelier](#) (FRA) on 172.41 points and [Megan Wessenberg](#) (USA) on 170.33 points.

[Loena Hendrickx](#) (BEL) withdrew before the Free Skating citing illness.

Overall, 59 skaters/couples representing 15 ISU members competed at Skate America, the first event of six in the series. The top 6 qualifiers in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Vancouver (CAN), December 6 to 9, 2018. The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series continues next week with Skate Canada in Laval, QC (CAN).

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit: <https://isu.org/GrandPrix>. Follow the discussion on social media by using **#FigureSkating #GPFigure**.