

November 18, 2018

Obihiro, Japan

Career first for Visser

Olympic 5000m Champion Esmee Visser (NED) won her career first World Cup gold medal in the Ladies' 3000m on Sunday, while Pavel Kulizhnikov (RUS) smashed the opposition in the Men's 1000m at the ISU World Cup Speed Skating in Obihiro.

Herzog trumps Japanese ladies

[Vanessa Herzog](#) (AUT) defeated [Nao Kodaira](#) (JPN) and [Miho Takagi](#) (JPN) in a track record time of 1 minute and 14.56 seconds to win the ladies' 1000m. It was the third World Cup gold medal for the 23-year-old Austrian. She won the 500m and the 1000m in Erfurt last year, when the Japanese ladies were absent.

This time around Herzog had to beat them all, which proved to be difficult. In the third last pairing Kodaira was the first skater under 1:15, when she broke her own 2017 track record in 1:14.84. The Olympic 500m Champion was very fast in the first 600m, but her speed faded away in the final lap. In the penultimate pairing Takagi was 0.38 behind on Kodaira's time at the 600m split, but she finished 0.01 ahead.

Takagi's 1:14.83 was not enough however. Herzog hammered out a 27.0 first full lap facing [Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) in the final pair. She was 0.13 seconds faster than Kodaira at the 600m split and won another 0.15 seconds in the final lap. Bowe, who won Saturday's 1500m, had to settle for fourth place in 1:15.00.

Visser takes first Dutch gold

[Esmee Visser](#) (NED) won the first Dutch gold medal of the Obihiro World Cup in the ladies' 3000m. In the third pairing the 22-year-old Olympic 5000m champion started slower than compatriot [Melissa Wijfje](#) and had to hold back at the crossover to let Wijfje cross in front early on in the race. Halfway through the race Visser accelerated, while Wijfje was struggling to maintain her pace. Wijfje eventually finished in 4:07.15 to end up tenth. With 4:04.60 Visser was 0.31 faster than [Ireen Wüst](#)'s 2014 track record.

Wüst herself skated in the penultimate pair in the ladies' endurance classic versus [Martina Sáblíková](#) (CZE). The two veterans fought a tough battle with Sáblíková eventually ending up on top in 4:05.23. The 31-year-old Czech clinched the bronze medal and Wüst came sixth in 4:06.13.

In the final pair [Natalya Voronina](#) (RUS) challenged Visser's 4:04, posting faster split times until the 2200m mark. The 24-year-old Russian couldn't keep up with Visser in the final two laps, but still took silver in 4:05.02.

Russia win Ladies' Team Sprint

Japan were fast in the first pairing of the Team Sprint. [Nao Kodaira](#) stopped the clock at 1:27.35 after [Konami Soga](#) and [Maki Tsuji](#) had taken care of first and second lap duties. Only Russia managed to beat the home team. Last year's Team Sprint World Cup winners clocked 1:27.23 with [Angelina Golikova](#), [Olga Fatkulina](#), [Yekaterina Shikhova](#) in the final pairing to take gold.

Behind silver medalists Japan the Netherlands grabbed bronze, after an unbalanced race with [Janine Smit](#) starting to fast for [Femke Beuling](#) to follow. After Beuling had closed the gap and Smit waved off, Jutta Leerdam had to hold back behind Beuling before trying to make up time in the final lap. Leerdam crossed the line in 1:28.810.

Kulizhnikov class apart

[Pavel Kulizhnikov](#) (RUS) was a class apart in the Men's 1000m. The Russian, who had already won Saturday's 500m, crushed his 2014 track record (1.09,23) by more than a second when he stopped the clock at 1 minute and 7.85 seconds. The Russian defeated [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) in a one-on-one race in the penultimate pairing. The Dutchman started in the outer lane and lost 0.20 in the opener. Taking benefit from the draft at the first crossover, Nuis managed to keep Kulizhnikov in sight, but the Russian had a perfect target to chase on the final crossover and skated the fastest final lap of the field in 26.4. Nuis was 0.54 slower but still took silver.

[Håvard Lorentzen](#) (NOR) and [Kai Verbij](#) (NED) entered the rink in the final pair, but they had to bow their heads for Kulizhnikov's superb final lap too. Lorentzen came fourth in 1:08.80 and Verbeij fifth in 1:08.91. [Thomas Krol](#) (NED) had already skated 1:08.62 in the fourth last pair, which proved to be enough for the bronze medal.

In the B Division [Masaya Yamada](#) (JPN) had also been faster than Kulizhnikov's 2014 track record. With 1:08.858 he would have been sixth in the A Division.

Roest delivers superb 5000m

[Patrick Roest](#) (NED) put forward his candidacy as heir to [Sven Kramer](#)'s 5000m crown. The 22-year-old World Allround Champion already beat his team-mate at the Dutch trials last month, and won his first career individual World Cup gold in Sunday's 5000m. Kramer himself decided to pull out before the race. He will travel back home because of a back injury and miss next week's World Cup in Tomakomai too.

Roest broke Kramer's 2014 track record (6:20.90) by more than seven seconds when he posted a time of 6 minutes and 13.01 seconds in the fifth pairing. No one else was able to come close. [Aleksandr Rumyantsev](#) (RUS) had already clocked 6:17.67 in the fourth pairing and collected the silver.

Another Dutch youngster, 21-year-old Marcel Bosker, edged out [Patrick Beckert](#) (GER) for bronze in 6:18.12. The German missed out on the podium by only 0.02 seconds. Olympic 10,000m Champion [Ted-Jan Bloemen](#) (CAN) is far from medal winning form and posted a mediocre 6:28.64 to end up thirteenth.

Third Dutch gold in Team Sprint

After not winning a single gold in the first two days in Obihiro, the Netherlands grabbed their third win on Sunday, when [Michel Mulder](#), [Kai Verbij](#) and [Kjeld Nuis](#) captured the Team Sprint gold ahead of last season's World Cup winners Norway. The Dutchmen posted 1:19.78 and were 1:01 faster than [Bjørn Magnussen](#), [Henrik Fagerli Rukke](#) and [Håvard Lorentzen](#) (NOR). Canada's [Christopher Fiola](#), [Laurent Dubreuil](#) and Antoine Gélinas-Beaulieu took bronze in 1:20.98.

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series please visit: isu.org/speed-skating. Results are [here](#) and you can follow the discussion on social media by using #WCSpeedSkating and #SpeedSkating.

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series will be available on in some countries on the ISU Skating Channel.

About ISU World Cup Speed Skating 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. The World Cup Competitions held from November to December serve as qualifying events for entry quotas at the ISU European, World Single Distances, World Sprint and World Allround Speed Skating Championships. A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season; For Men: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, combined 5000m / 10,000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For Ladies 500m, 1000m, 1500m, the combined 3000m / 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For further information please visit isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating