

November 25, 2018

Obihiro, Japan

Career firsts for Weidemann and Swings

Isabelle Weidemann (CAN) took her career first individual World Cup medal, when she won the ladies' 3000m and Bart Swings (BEL) won his first career 5000m World Cup gold on the final day in Tomakomai.

Kodaira completes weekend hat-trick

[Nao Kodaira](#) (JPN) took her third gold medal of the weekend with a track record time of 1 minute and 17.31 seconds in the ladies' 1000m on Saturday. The outdoor track in Tomakomai was not as cold as the two previous days after an overnight change of weather and the skaters did not need their warm winter coats in the afternoon anymore. With a tight wind skating conditions were tough all the same. It did not hold back Kodaira.

[Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) set the fastest time (1:17.65) in the third last pair versus [Miho Takagi](#) (JPN). [Ireen Wüst](#) (NED) came close in the penultimate pair, but wasn't able to beat Bowe despite a fast 30.6 final lap. With 1:17.83 Wüst, who won yesterday's 1500m, was second before Kodaira and [Vanesse Herzog](#) (AUT) took the ice in the final pairing.

Both Kodaira and Herzog stayed clear of Bowe and Wüst in the first 600m. Kodaira also managed to stay under Bowe's time in the final lap, but Herzog was not able to match Bowe's 30.8. With 1:17.77 the Austrian still was faster than Wüst, to run away with the bronze medal. Wüst dropped off the podium by 0.07 seconds.

Herzog won the first 1000m World Cup race of the season in Obihiro last week and stayed on top of the ranking with 108 points after Sunday's silver medal. Kodaira, who took silver last week, came level on top and Bowe is third with 97 points.

Maiden win for Weidemann

[Isabelle Weidemann](#) (CAN) surprised the ladies' endurance field on Sunday. The 23-year-old Canadian clinched her career first individual World Cup medal, winning the 3000m in Tomakomai. Weidemann set a track record time of 4:10.18, before the ice cleaning break.

[Francesca Lollobrigida](#) (ITA) clocked the second best time in 4:13.47, before last week's winner [Esmee Visser](#) (NED) came onto the rink. Visser was not able to match Weidemann's lap times from the beginning and seemed to suffer from the slightly tougher conditions due to a stronger wind after the ice cleaning break. The Olympic 5000m Champion finished in a disappointing 4:19.62 to end up 12th.

In the final pairing [Martina Sáblíková](#) (CZE) defied the wind and skated 4:13.00. The Czech endurance specialist, who finished third last week, pushed Lollobrigida to third place, but had to leave the top spot on the podium to Weidemann. Her pair-mate [Natalya Voronina](#) (RUS) came fourth in 4:14.47.

Sáblíková grabbed the lead in the World Cup ranking with 102 points. Voronina comes second with 97 points. Weidemann climbed to third place with 92 points and Visser dropped to fourth with 89 points.

Dutch ladies get act together

After an unbalanced race and a bronze medal in last week's team sprint, the Netherlands started in a different line-up and the change paid off. With Letitia de Jong instead of [Femke Beuling](#) to accompany [Janine Smit](#) and Jutta Leerdam, the Dutch ladies took gold in 1:32.10.

Italy's [Francesca Lollobrigida](#), [Francesca Bettrone](#) and Noemi Bonazza took silver in 1:32.12 and Canada ([Kaylin Irvine](#), [Heather McLean](#), [Ivanie Blondin](#)) clinched the bronze medal in 1:32.81.

Another Dutch sweep in the Men's 1000m

After Saturday's medal sweep in the 1500m, the Dutch man went home with all silverware in the 1000m on Sunday too. [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) clinched the gold again and [Thomas Krol](#) (NED) collected another bronze, but the middle man was different. In the 1500m World Allround Champion [Patrick Roest](#) (NED) had joined Nuis and Krol on the podium, and in the 1000m it was 2017 World Sprint Champion [Kai Verbij](#) (NED) to take the honor.

Nuis skated versus Krol in the second last pairing and both men were the first to clock a time under 1:11. The Olympic Champion finished in 1:10.45 and his team mate crossed the line 0.46 seconds later. Only Verbij and [Håvard Lorentzen](#) (NOR) came close in the final pairing. The Dutchman finished in 1:10.72, but the Norwegian Olympic silver medalist did not manage to stay under 1:11 finishing in 1:11.06 for fourth place.

Last week's winner [Pavel Kulizhnikov](#) (RUS) did not skate the 1000m in Tomakomai. Nuis took over the lead in the World Cup ranking with 114 points. Krol is second with 96 points and Verbij third with 94 points. Kulizhnikov dropped to 11th place.

Career first 5000m gold for Swings

[Bart Swings](#) (BEL) became the second Belgian to win a 5000m World Cup gold medal after Dutch Belgian Bart Veldkamp in 1999. Swings set a track record time of 6:34.85 in the first pairing of the men's longest distance at the Tomakomai World Cup and nobody managed to come close.

While conditions worsened, with increasing winds and a bit of rain, last week's winner [Patrick Roest](#) (NED) took on compatriot Marcel Bosker in the penultimate pairing. The Dutchman started faster than Swings, but couldn't maintain his high pace halfway through the race and bit in the dust with 6:37.32.

[Sverre Lunde Pedersen](#) (NOR) took on a different approach in the final pairing. The Norwegian started slower and used his saved energy to skate exceptionally fast 30.5, 30.8 and 31.1 laps. Swings set 31.2, 32.0 and 32.1, while Roest clocked 33.0, 32.2 and 32.1. Pedersen's acceleration was not enough for gold, but he managed to edge out Roest for silver in 6:36.86. His pair-mate [Aleksandr Romyantsev](#) (RUS) came seventh in 6:39.53.

Roest kept the lead in the long distance World Cup with 108 points. Pedersen comes second with 94 points and Romyantsev is third with 90 points.

Russia surprises the Netherlands

The Netherlands seemed on course for their second team sprint win of the season when Kjeld Nuis entered the final lap on gold medal pace, but the Dutchman could not match the last lap of youngster [Viktor Mushtakov](#) and Russia ran away with victory. Mushtakov crossed the line in

1:23.54, after [Ruslan Murashov](#) and [Alexey Yesin](#) had set him up for the final lap in 55.94. [Dai Dai Ntab](#), who skated instead of last week's first man [Michel Mulder](#), and [Kai Verbij](#) launched Nuis in 55.59, but the man who had already won this weekend's 1500m and 1000m finished 0.10 seconds behind Russia's time in 1:23.64. Canada ([Christopher Fiola](#), [Laurent Dubreuil](#) and Antoine Gélinas-Beaulieu) took the bronze medal in 1:24.23.

The Netherlands stay on top of the World Cup ranking with 228 points, followed by Russia (2000 and Canada (192).

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.

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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.