

December 6, 2018

Vancouver, Canada

## **Junior Russian Skaters dominant in Vancouver**

### **Shevchenko/Eremenko (RUS) clinch narrow lead in Junior Rhythm Dance**

[Sofia Shevchenko/Igor Eremenko](#) of Russia clinched a narrow lead as the competition opened with the Junior Rhythm Dance in Vancouver (CAN) on Thursday. Their teammates [Arina Ushakova/Maxim Nekrasov](#) and [Elizaveta Khudaiberdieva/Nikita Nazarov](#) follow in second and third.

Dancing to “La Cumparsita”, Shevchenko/Eremenko picked up a level four for the twizzles and the lift as well as a level three for the circular step sequence and the first Argentine Tango sequence. The team from Moscow set a new season’s best with 67.73 points. “It is a high score and this is our record (seasons best). We are very happy. And we deserved it,” Shevchenko said. The skaters felt the support of their team- and training mates Alexandra Stepanova and Ivan Bukin. “We really happy that they were cheering for us. Even during the warm-up before going on the ice and during the training, we had a feeling of being at home,” Shevchenko explained.

Ushakova/Nekrasov’s performance to a modern arrangement of “Libertango” and a Flamenco featured level-four twizzles, a level-four rotational lift and Argentine Tango sequence. The World Junior bronze medalists earned 67.49 points. “It was not our best score and honestly I had hoped for more. We felt good in the program, we didn’t notice any errors,” Ushakova commented. “Tomorrow is another day. The main battle will happen tomorrow,” she added.

Khudaiberdieva/Nazarov turned in a strong performance to “Tango Amore” by Edvin Marton as well, posting a season’s best of 66.29 points. “It is amazing, I am in complete awe,” Khudaiberdieva said about competing in their first Junior Final. “There was some type of nervous excitement, because it is such a big event, there is a big crowd. I was shaking a bit an hour before the performance. But when I stepped on the ice and saw the big crowd, who came to see our performance, it gave me confidence and a push,” she continued.

[Majorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha](#) (CAN) remain close to the podium in fourth place on 66.25 points. [Avonley Ngyuen/Vadym Kolesnik](#) (USA) finished fifth (63.73 points) and [Marina Kazakova/Georgy Reviya](#) (GEO) came sixth (57.51 points).

### **Camden Pulkinen (USA) skates to lead in Junior Men Short Program**

[Camden Pulkinen](#) (USA) skated to the lead in the Junior Men Short Program at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final on Thursday in Vancouver. He edged Canada’s [Stephen Gogolev](#) (CAN) by less than two points. [Petr Gumennik](#) of Russia is currently ranked third.

Performing to “Oblivion” by Astor Piazzolla, Pulkinen hit a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, a big triple Axel and two level-four spins. However, the landing of the triple flip was somewhat shaky. The reigning ISU Junior Grand Prix Final silver medalist scored 80.31 points. “My goal is, as always, to put complete performances out. I think that takes care of the outcome goals. I think every event is different. This is a little bit different than last year in Japan, especially with the travel, it was a lot further. So this was a five hour flight here, so not a lot of jetlag, pretty comfortable with Vancouver. It is very nice city here, so just happy to be here,” Pulkinen shared.

Gogolev's program to "Run Boy Run" by Woodkid was highlighted by a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, a triple Axel, triple flip and three level-four spins. The 13-year-old from Toronto achieved a new season's best with 78.82 points. "It feels good to have a season's best, at the Grand Prix Final and it's my first (Junior) Grand Prix season." Gogolev commented. "I was really happy (to come to the Final), but not because someone pulled out, but because I was the one going. And I was really excited. I am ready for tomorrow (for the Free Skating)," he added.

Gummenik produced a triple Axel, triple flip and triple Lutz-triple loop combination in his routine to a Hungarian Czardas to set a new season's best with 76.16 points. "To be honest, I do not think about the scores, I think about the performance, that is the most important part for me. Overall, I completed almost all of my elements. There were a few shortcomings, which only I noticed," the skater from St. Petersburg said.

[Koshiro Shimada](#) (JPN) placed fourth (73.97 points) while [Adam Siao Him Fa](#) (FRA/66.48 points) and [Tomoki Hiwatashi](#) (USA/62.48 points) follow in fifth and sixth.

### **Kostiukovich/Lalin (RUS) edge teammates in Junior Pairs Short Program**

World Junior silver medalists [Polina Kostiukovich/Dmitri Lalin](#) of Russia edged teammates [Apollinariia Panfilova/Dmitry Rylov](#) and [Anastasia Mishina/Aleksandr Galliamov](#) in the Junior Pairs Short Program at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Vancouver (CAN) on Thursday.

Skating last, Kostiukovich/Lalin put out an energetic performance to "Survivor" from the Lara Croft soundtrack, completing a triple twist, side by side double Axel, throw triple Salchow and an original lift. The World Junior silver medalists posted a new season's best with 66.84 points. "We could have performed better, the elements could have been done in a better way and we can improve on some levels. There is still a lot to work on," Kostiukovich said. "I like this character," she said about their music choice. "I don't like classical choreography so much, I like a tougher character."

Panfilova/Rylov's program to "I Put a Spell On You" included a triple twist, double Axel, throw triple Salchow and a level-four side by side combination spin. The reigning ISU Junior Grand Prix Final silver medalists earned 66.44 points, a new season's best. "We worked a lot, after the Cup of Russia in Kazan. We had a very long break, and that it was visible in today's performance," Panfilova noted. "Last year in Japan (at the Grand Prix Final), the crowd was bigger but the crowd here supports us well. It is a very warm environment," she added.

[Mishina/Galliamov produced a high throw triple Salchow, triple twist and four level-four elements in their routine to "Party Like a Russian". The World Junior bronze medalists scored 64.37 points.](#) "We are a bit nervous because it is our first Final. We did not do all we can (perfectly), but in the free program we will try to skate better," Mishina said.

[Kseniia Akhanteva/Valerii Kolesov \(RUS\) are currently ranked fourth \(62.04 points\). Anastasia Poluianova/Dmitry Sopot \(RUS\) came fifth \(59.28 points\) and Sarah Feng/TJ Newman \(USA\) finished sixth \(49.82 points\).](#)

### **Alena Kostornaia (RUS) upsets Alexandra Trusova (RUS) in Junior Ladies Short Program**

Russia's [Alena Kostornaia](#) upset teammate [Alexandra Trusova](#) to grab the lead in the Junior Ladies Short Program at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Vancouver on

Thursday. [Alena Kanysheva](#), also from Russia, finished third in the first segment of the competition.

Kostornaia turned in an exquisite performance to “Departure” and “November” by Max Richter, producing a double Axel, triple flip, triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination as well as level-four spins and footwork. The World Junior silver medalist scored 76.32 points, which is a new season’s best. “I feel this was the best I’ve ever skated. I did everything as I had planned. There is still room to grow, but for now I did the best I could have done,” the 15-year-old said. “That (being ahead of Trusova in the Short Program) happened before at the fourth event of the Russian Cup, but the short program is just half of the way,” she continued.

Trusova’s dynamic program to “Kil Bill” featured a double Axel, triple flip and a triple Lutz-triple loop combination. The reigning ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion collected a level four for her spins and footwork and earned 74.43 points, just below her season’s best. “There were small errors, but overall I am very happy with my performance. I was supposed to go straight from the cantilever into the layback spin, but my leg skated off, and I was late, but I completed the element,” the World Junior Champion explained. “I am planning three quad jumps (two quad Lutz, one toeloop in the Free Skating). I am a bit nervous about it.”

Skating to “The Show Must Go On” by Natalia Posnova, Kanysheva completed a double Axel, triple flip, triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination as well as level-four spins to achieve a new season’s best of 68.66 points. “I definitely I can do better and should have done better, but I’m happy with what I did. This is my first (junior) season and my first Final, I think it’s already a lot. My goal is to make a name for myself. I want the world to know me,” the 13-year-old commented.

[Yelim Kim](#) (KOR) finished fourth on 62.51 points. ISU Junior Grand Prix Final bronze medalist [Anastasia Tarakanova](#) (RUS) is sitting in fifth (61.78 points) while [Anna Shcherbakova](#) (RUS) came sixth (56.26 points).

### **Junior Grand Prix livestream**

The ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events are live streamed on the official [ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating YouTube Channel](#). Additionally, all performances since 2011 are available on demand.

Full entry lists and results of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series are available [here](#). Follow the conversation with #JGPFigure and #GPFigure.