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Vancouver, Canada

Ice Dance won by 0.01 points and substitute Gogolev (CAN) steals the show

Shevchenko/Eremenko (RUS) clinch Junior Dance victory by 0.01 points

[Sofia Shevchenko/Igor Eremenko](#) clinched victory in the Junior Ice Dance event by the slimmest of margins and led Russia to a podium sweep at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final in Vancouver (CAN) on Friday. [Arina Ushakova/Maxim Nekrasov](#) took the silver and the bronze went to [Elizaveta Khudaiberdieva/Nikita Nazarov](#).

Dancing to “Intro” by Onuka Witchdoctor and “Camo & Krooked Lijo” by Alina Orlova, Shevchenko/Eremenko delivered a strong performance, collecting a level four for the twizzles, combination spin and two lifts as well as a level three for the footwork sequences. The team from Moscow posted a new season’s best with 102.93 points. They were ranked second in the Free Dance but held on to first place with 170.66 points total. “We’re in a kind of shock now, and we go around glassy-eyed. We haven’t realized it yet. Sport is such a thing – one time you’re at the top and next time you’re at the bottom. This is our first major victory,” Shevchenko said. “It was so close with 0.01 points difference. It was worth the fight,” Eremenko noted. “We worked really hard for this competition, and we really wanted to show the kind of skate that we are able to show to our coaches during practice. Competition always brings worries and stress, it is a little different than training - which is why we were striving to relax and to show what we are truly capable of. We believe that it was not a hundred percent of what we could have done, but we have definitely gotten closer to that goal,” he added.

Ushakova/Nekrasov’s upbeat dance to “Black Cat White Cat” by Goran Bregovic featured four level-four elements as well and the World Junior bronze medalists won the Free Dance portion with 103.16 points, but it was not enough to overtake overnight leaders Shevchenko/Eremenko. They remained in second at 170.65 points. “We are pretty happy with our performance this time. There was definitely some mistakes that we will be working on and taking care of at home. It’s definitely not the result we were hoping for, but life is life and today there is one winner, tomorrow there is another one. It is what it is, and we will work on our mistakes,” Ushakova told the post-event press conference.

Khudaiberdieva/Nazarov completed a level-four spin, twizzles and lifts in their routine to “Human” by Rag’n’Bone Man and “Nemesis” by Benjamin Clementine and were fourth in the Free Dance, but third overall with 164.54 points to take the bronze in what was their first Junior Final. “0.03 is a very small difference (to Lajoie/Lagha), when we first saw the score and the placement for the free skate, so we were upset a little bit thinking that we would not make it to the top three,” Khudaiberdieva commented. “We will be working on the programs and on ourselves to prepare for upcoming events,” she continued.

[Majorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha](#) (CAN), who skated to “Warsaw Concerto”, finished third in the Free Dance but fourth overall at 164.51 points. [Avonley Nguyen/Vadym Kolesnik](#) (USA) placed fifth (158.47) followed by [Marina Kazakova/Georgy Reviya](#) (GEO) on 148.76 points.

Substitute Stephen Gogolev (CAN) steals the show, skates off with Junior Men gold

Canada’s [Stephen Gogolev](#) came as a substitute into the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and ended up stealing the show and skating off with the gold medal on home ice on Friday in

Vancouver. [Petr Gumennik](#) of Russia earned the silver medal and [Koshiro Shimada](#) of Japan climbed from fourth to take the bronze.

Gogolev fell on his opening quad Lutz in his “Sherlock Holmes” program, but recovered to hit a quad toe, an albeit underrotated quad Salchow-double toe as well as six triples including two Axels. The 13-year-old skater from Toronto collected a level four for his spins and a level three for the footwork to set a season’s best of 154.76 points. He racked up 233.58 points overall to move up from second to first. “I don’t even feel like I’m here. It just feels like it’s another competition for me. I was a bit nervous but it was normal nervous like any other competitions. I was a bit disappointed after falling on the quad Lutz but I did everything else,” Gogolev said.

Gummenik’s lyrical “Romeo and Juliet” program featured a quadruple Salchow, triple Axel-double toe-double loop as well as four more clean triples. However, the 16-year-old doubled a flip and underrotated a triple loop. The skater from St. Petersburg earned 142.59 points and totaled 218.75 points. “Yes, I think I was expecting a medal. Here everyone is a competitor, we are all at the same level, and you can end up being the first and the six (all of this is possible). Any medal is great, but of course the first place is the best,” Gummenik shared.

Performing to “Winter in Buenos Aires” by Astor Piazzolla, Shimada nailed a quad toe as well as a triple Axel and four more clean triple jumps, but he fell on a triple flip towards the end of the program. The Japanese skater scored 140.41 points and ranked third in the Free Skating, but nevertheless pulled up to third place with 214.38 points. “I’m still surprised that I came third,” the 17-year-old said. “I was able to enjoy the performance today despite the fact I was more nervous than yesterday (in the Short Program). I was doing well in the morning practice so I was able to do a quad toe loop. Though I lost focus on the first half because I was too focused on my quad coming up. I could feel the improvement in my performance and that was the happiest part.”

[Adam Siao Him Fa](#) (FRA) landed two quadruple toeloops to finish fourth on 207.04 points, moving up one spot after the Short Program. Overnight leader [Camden Pulkinen](#) (USA) dropped to fifth after making some errors (197.68 points). [Tomoki Hiwatashi](#) (USA) came sixth (190.80 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.