

March 22, 2019

Saitama, Japan

Alina Zagitova (RUS) cruises to Ladies gold in Saitama

Olympic Champion [Alina Zagitova](#) of Russia added the only missing title to her impressive resume by striking gold at the [ISU World Figure Skating Championships](#) in Saitama (JPN) on Friday. [Elizabeth Tursynbaeva](#) captured the silver medal, becoming the first female skater from Kazakhstan to win a World medal. Russia's [Evgenia Medvedeva](#) earned the bronze medal.

Skating to "Carmen", Zagitova reeled off a double Axel, triple Lutz-triple toe, triple Salchow, another double Axel, triple Lutz-triple loop, triple flip-double toe-double loop and triple flip as well as level-four spins and footwork. The 2018 ISU European Figure Skating Champion scored 155.42 points and totalled 237.50 points to win the title with a little over 12 points to spare. "My first thought at the very end of the performance was "yes, I did it", through hardships to the stars. I realized that I needed a clean skate and I went into each jump determined landing it. I was very nervous, but I think the experience from the Olympic Games helped me somehow. I was very nervous, because this season didn't go so smoothly," the 16-year-old said.

Tursynbaeva opened her Tango routine with a somewhat shaky quadruple Salchow, becoming the first woman to perform a clean quadruple jump at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships at the senior level. The Four Continents silver medallist went on to complete six clean triples including a triple Salchow-triple toeloop. The only glitch was a stumble on the double Axel. With 148.80 points, the Universiade silver medallist was ranked fourth in the Free Skating, but moved up to second with a total of 224.76 points. "I still cannot believe that I have won the silver. To tell the truth, during the practice session I was feeling weird. I am glad that after all I managed to focus on my performance," Tursynbaeva commented. "I am pleased that I landed the quadruple Salchow. It was good in practice, but I couldn't land it in the past two competitions. Today, when I stepped on the ice I felt great and I thought, I can do it and it just happened," she added.

Medvedeva's routine to a Tango medley featured a triple Salchow-triple loop combination, a double Axel-triple toeloop as well as four more triple jumps. However, she underrotated a double Axel. The two-time World Champion earned a season's best of 149.57 points and moved up from fourth to third at 223.80 points. "I proved that I can, that I am still here and I am all set. Now I proved that I can work and move forward, I can bring joy to people. It proved that I am here, on the top of the World Championships and I only had had to work harder. You will see strong and beautiful Medvedeva next season," the Olympic silver medalist shared.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champion [Rika Kihira](#) (JPN) landed a triple Axel-triple toeloop combination and was ranked second in the Free Skating to move up from seventh to fourth, just missing the podium by less than half a point (223.49 points). [Kaori Sakamoto](#) (JPN) slipped from second to fifth after popping a triple flip (222.83 points). [Satoko Miyahara](#) (JPN) pulled up from eighth to sixth place with another strong performance (215.95 points).

The [ISU World Figure Skating Championships](#) continue Saturday with the Free Dance and Men's Free Skating.

For more information, full entry lists and results please see the [ISU event website](#) and [official event website](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using the hashtag [#WorldFigure](#).

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