

October 19, 2019

Las Vegas, USA

## Chen leads US skaters' dominance at Skate America

Team USA took the lead in three out of four disciplines as [Nathan Chen](#), [Bradie Tennell](#) and [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) all gave fine displays as Skate America opened Friday with the Short Programs in Las Vegas. China's [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) won the Pairs Short Program. Skate America is the first of six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/2020.

### Terrific Tennell (USA) claims Ladies Short Program at Skate America

[Bradie Tennell](#) (USA) posted a personal best score to claim the Ladies Short Program as the first day of competition concluded at Skate America in Las Vegas (USA) on Friday. Japan's [Kaori Sakamoto](#) and [Wakaba Higuchi](#) are ranked second and third.

Skating to 'Mechanisms' and 'Chronos' by Kirill Richter, Tennell produced a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, double Axel, triple flip and level-four spins and footwork. The 2018 U.S. Champion scored 75.10 points.

"Tonight, I was really happy with my skate especially after my injury and working my way back to full training. I went out there with the mindset of doing what I do every day in practice and not trying to make anything any better, or certainly any worse. I wanted to enjoy myself, be relaxed and perform," said Tennell, who suffered a stress fracture during the summer.

Sakamoto's dynamic performance to 'No Roots' by Alice Merton featured a triple flip-triple toeloop combination, double Axel and triple loop. The 2018 Four Continents Champion earned a season's best of 73.25 points.

"I came into this event feeling not so confident. I am happy that I was able to skate without mistakes, but I need to practice more to have more confidence," the 19-year-old said.

Higuchi landed a double Axel, triple Lutz-triple toeloop and triple flip in her routine to 'Bird Set Free' by Sia. The 2018 World silver medallist scored 71.76 points, which was a personal best.

"I was really happy to skate a clean program after a long time. I think it has been two years since I skated a program at this level. However, I left some points on the table in the spins, steps and also jumps. I hope to practice more and be confident for the Free Skating," the Japanese skater said.

2019 World Junior silver medalist [Anna Shcherbakova](#) (RUS) fell in her step sequence and underrotated the triple loop in her combination to come fourth on 67.60 points. She was just ahead of her teammate, 2015 World Champion [Elizaveta Tuktamysheva](#) (RUS), who landed a triple Axel but made errors on two other jumps (67.28 points). Former US Champion [Karen Chen](#) rounds up the top six on 66.03 points.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Ladies](#)

### Chen tops Men's Short Program in Las Vegas headline

World Champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA) shone on home ice to top the Men's Short Program at Skate America on Friday, as Russia's [Dmitri Aliev](#) edged out Canadian [Keegan Messing](#) to claim second place.

Performing to 'La Boheme', Chen wobbled on his opening quadruple Lutz but went on to hit a triple Axel and quadruple-triple toeloop combination. The change camel spin and step sequence merited a level four and Chen picked up 102.71 points.

"This is my first time performing the Short Program in a competitive setting. I'm not entirely happy with exactly how the program went. However, it's the first outing and I'm pretty OK with it," the 20-year-old said.

"I'm looking forward to competing tomorrow, hopefully clean up some of the mistakes I made today and just keep going for it."

Aliev's program to 'Je Dors Sur Des Roses' from 'Mozart L'Opera Rock' featured a quadruple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, a somewhat shaky quadruple toeloop, a triple Axel and three level-four elements. The 2018 European silver medalist scored 96.57 points.

"Overall I'm pretty pleased with the job I did today. I made a little error on the quadruple toeloop on the spin, and probably this affected my score, but overall I'm very satisfied," the 20-year-old said.

Messing opened his program to 'Perfect' by Ed Sheeran with a quadruple-triple toeloop combination and followed up with a triple Axel and triple Lutz to earn 96.34 points, which was a season's best.

"This was the first time I actually got to perform my Short Program in front of my wife who it is actually made for. This program was the same music that my wife and I danced to on our very first dance, so for her to be here to see it was very special to me," he said.

"All the elements seemed pretty solid today. I was just really happy to be able to come here and skate. Coming here this week was a huge decision for me with everything that's happened," Messing added, in reference to the tragic death of his younger brother in a traffic accident last month.

[Jason Brown](#) (USA) singled his Axel and ranks fourth at 83.45 points. ISU Grand Prix Finalist [Michal Brezina](#) (CZE) came fifth (81.11 points) followed by 2016 European silver medalist [Alexei Bychenko](#) (ISR) on 79.76 points.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Men](#)

## **Peng/Jin skate to lead in Skate America Pairs Short Program**

China's [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) skated to the lead in the Pairs Short Program as Skate America opened Friday in Las Vegas (USA). [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) of Russia are currently ranked second, followed by US Champions [Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy Le Duc](#).

Skating to 'Alegria' (Cirque du Soleil), Peng/Jin completed a triple twist, throw triple loop and difficult lift, but she stepped out of the triple toeloop. Nevertheless, the 2019 Four Continents bronze medalists earned a season's best with 72.73 points.

"We made a mistake on the side by side jump (triple toe) obviously, but the rest of the elements were quite good and we're satisfied overall with the performance," Jin said.

"The hardest part at the beginning of the season is to get back into competition mode. It's been half a year since the end of the last season," added Peng.

Pavliuchenko/Khodykin's program to 'The Storm' by Havasi was highlighted by a triple twist, side by side triple toeloop and an Axel Lasso lift with an original dismount. The 2018 World Junior Champions scored 71.25 points.

"It was a normal performance for us. There is always room to grow and we made a little error in the step sequence. Overall we lost two levels (on elements) in the performance," Pavliuchenko said.

Cain-Gribble/Le Duc produced a triple twist and side by side triple Salchow in their routine to 'A Storm Is Coming' but she fell on the throw triple Lutz as they totaled 68.20 points.

"Skate America is a really special competition. It feels like we're right at home. It's wonderful to look up to the audience and see people that we know and love everywhere," Le Duc said.

"We're pushing ourselves to the next level at every competition. We know that our season is going to build as it continues with our main goal being at the World Championships, so we know this is one step along the road."

[Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier](#) (USA) came fourth (65.18 points) and [Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson](#) (USA) placed fifth on 61.27 points.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Pairs](#)

### **Hubbell/Donohue (USA) on track after Rhythm Dance at Skate America**

Two-time World Ice Dance medalists [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) are right on track to defend their Skate America title after they danced to the lead in the Rhythm Dance at Skate America in Las Vegas on Friday. Russians [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) finished second and [Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen](#) of Canada are currently ranked third.

Hubbell/Donohue's dance to 'My Heart Belongs to Daddy' included level-four twizzles, a level-four straight line lift and level-four Finnstep pattern. The 2019 World bronze medalists scored 84.97 points.

"Zach and I were so pleased to begin our season here at Skate America. It's our first time ever jumping right into the Grand Prix season and I feel like we have so much progress to make on the program, but it was a great performance for today," Hubbell said.

"It was very exciting to me to debut the Marilyn Monroe character. It's something I dreamed of skating to for many years. So it was great to actualize that in Las Vegas."

Dancing to 'Sparkling Diamonds' and 'Your Song', Stepanova/Bukin collected a level four for their twizzles and the curve lift, while the partial step sequence and the midline step sequence garnered a level three. The 2019 European silver medalists earned 81.91 points.

"We're very happy to be here. This is our first competition and the first time for us to compete our program in front of an audience. We know there is still a lot to improve, but we're glad to be here at the first Grand Prix," Stepanova said.

Fournier Beaudry/Sorensen's dance to 'Bonnie and Clyde' featured a level-four rotational lift and Finnstep pattern while the partial step sequence was graded a level three. The Nebelhorn Trophy Champions received 79.17 points.

The couple had to sit out the Grand Prix series in the past season as they switched flags from Denmark to Canada.

"We enjoyed our first Grand Prix after being one season out of the Grand Prix. We had no expectations, we just wanted to have a good experience and I think this is what we did," Fournier Beaudry said.

[Olivia Smart/Adrian Diaz](#) (ESP) placed fourth with a dance to 'Grease' (76.62 points) ahead of ISU Grand Prix Finalists [Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro](#) (RUS) who got 71.18 points.

*Due to a calculation error on the element "Pattern Dance Type Step Sequence" (PSt), the Rhythm Dance (RD) scores had to be re-calculated for all skaters. The revised results and details are published with the corrected scores. The overall RD standing did not change.*

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Ice Dance](#)

## Schedule of the event

Skate America continues Saturday with the Pairs, Men's Free Skating, Free Dance, Ladies Free Skating.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series continues next week in Kelowna (CAN). Full [entry lists, results, the General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series are available on [isu.org](http://isu.org).

## Where to watch and follow the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019?

Viewers will be able to watch the Series either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) as of season 2019/20. You will find the full list in the [Where to watch news here](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the "Where to Watch" news and you can also subscribe to the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

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## ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20

[Skate America - Las Vegas \(USA\) – October 18 – 20](#)

[Skate Canada International – Kelowna \(CAN\) – October 25 – 27](#)

[Internationaux de France – Grenoble \(FRA\) – Novembre 1 – 3](#)

[SHISEIDO cup of China – Chongqing \(CHN\) – November 8 – 10](#)

[Rostelecom Cup – Moscow \(RUS\) – November 15 – 17](#)

[NHK Trophy – Sapporo \(JPN\) – November 22 – 24](#)

[ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final \(Senior & Junior\) – Torino \(ITA\) – December 5 – 8](#)

[The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series](#) started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six international senior invitational events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The skaters are seeded and invited to the six Grand Prix of Figure Skating events based on the results of the previous ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Competitors collect points in their ISU Grand Prix events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.