

November 8, 2019

Chongqing, China

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20

Shiseido Cup of China, Day One

Home crowd favorites and World Pairs Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN) took the lead in the Pairs Short Program as Shiseido Cup of China opened Friday in Chongqing. World Ice Dance silver medalists [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalopov](#) (RUS), comeback skater [Han Yan](#) (CHN) and up-and-coming youngster [Anna Shcherbakova](#) (RUS) are in the top positions as well following the Short Program.

Sinitsina/Katsalopov (RUS) dance into confident lead in Rhythm Dance

World silver medalists [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalopov](#) of Russia danced into a confident lead in the Rhythm Dance. 2019 Four Continents Champions [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) came second followed by Canada's [Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen](#) .

Sinitsina/Katsalopov's Quickstep and Foxtrot to 'Singin' in the Rain' was highlighted by level-four twizzles and a level-four rotational lift. The 2019 World silver medalists collected a level three for the Finnstep Pattern dance, the Pattern Dance step sequence as well as for the midline step sequence. The Russian Champions posted a new season's best of 85.39 points to take the lead with five points to spare.

"We're happy with our skating today, but as always there is lot of space to improve the dance. Indeed, we were missing competitions a lot, we had a quite big break, almost a month and we've worked very hard and trained every day and we couldn't wait to come here and show what we've worked on," Katsalopov said.

Dancing to 'Too Darn Hot', Chock/Bates produced a level-four straight line lift and level-three step sequence. However, the Finnstep Pattern rated only a level one. The 2016 World silver medalists scored 80.34 points.

"We performed our program very well, the best so far I'd say, in our competitions. There are some technical things that we need to go back and check on when we get home," Chock commented.

Fournier Beaudry/Sorensen earned a level four and three for their elements their 'Bonnie and Clyde' program. The Skate America bronze medalists scored 78.41 points. "It is our first time at Cup of China and it was very nice to break the ice with the short dance we love to do," Fournier Beaudry noted.

"It was our first Grand Prix medal at Skate America and we were extremely excited. I think it really opened some doors, some new possibilities for us and brought us more together. We want to skate as well as we can in this competition and I think we did our job today," Fournier Beaudry told the press.

[Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu](#) (CHN) entertained the home crowd with their Charlie Chaplin routine to place fourth on 74.77 points. 2018 Four Continents champions [Kaitlin Hawayek/ Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) are currently ranked fifth (74.70 points).

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

Shcherbakova (RUS) shines in Ladies Short Program

World Junior silver medalist [Anna Shcherbakova](#) of Russia shone in the Ladies Short Program. Japan's Two-time World medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) finished second followed by [Amber Glenn](#) (USA).

Performing to 'The Perfume' soundtrack, Shcherbakova nailed a double Axel, triple flip as well as a triple Lutz-triple loop combination in the second half of the program. The 15-year-old collected a level four for her spins to achieve a new personal best of 73.51 points. "The performance was good, I did all my jumps and elements, but I want more quality for all my elements," the World Junior silver medalist commented.

"It was better (than at Skate America), because I did all elements clean. After Skate America we worked a lot on the short program, on the jumps and step sequence. But my main goal is the free skating tomorrow," she added.

Miyahara's 'Egyptian Disco' program featured a double Axel as well as exquisite spins and footwork. However, the 2015 World silver medalist under-rotated the back end of her triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination and the triple loop. She scored 68.91 points. "It was not my best, but I enjoyed skating. I wanted to challenge a new style (in the short program) and it is still a tough program for me. I need to work on the step sequence and the last part of the program. But the dancing part is really fun for me," the 2018 World bronze medalist noted.

Glenn landed a triple flip-triple toe combination, triple loop and double Axel in her routine to 'Scars' by Madilyn Bailey to score 67.69 points, a personal best. "I felt I had a pretty good skate considering I found out five days before I was leaving I was coming here. I had a great time, I felt really good out there. It's a great opportunity," the American skater, who had come in as a late replacement, shared.

2015 World Champion [Elizaveta Tuktamysheva](#) (RUS) fell on her triple Axel to finish fourth on 65.57 points. 2019 European Champion [Sofia Samodurova](#) (RUS) is currently ranked fifth while [Marin Honda](#) (JPN) placed sixth on 61.73 points.

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

Yan (CHN) returns to lead home 1-2 in Men's Short Program

China's [Han Yan](#), who has come back after sitting out a season, sprang a surprise by winning the Men's Short Program. Teammate [Boyang Jin](#) came second and Italian [Matteo Rizzo](#) ranks third after the first day of competition.

Performing to 'A Thousand Years', Yan produced a triple Axel, triple Flip-triple toe combination, and a triple Lutz as well as three level-four spins. The former Chinese champion earned 86.46 points. "I am just very happy to be here. I said I want to come back, and I want to fulfil my promise.

The short program was not perfect, there were some small mistakes, but it was exciting for me to perform in competition again and I enjoyed the welcome of the spectators and the judges,” he said.

Two-time World bronze medalist Jin fell on his opening quad Lutz in his routine to ‘First Light’ but recovered to land a shaky quad toe-double toe combination and a triple Axel as well as level-four spins and steps to score 85.43 points. “I had too much power going into my first jump, I lost control and fell. Overall I felt very positive, but I did not quite show my training level today,” Jin said.

Rizzo hit a quadruple toeloop, triple Axel but then missed his triple Lutz and had no combination. The 2019 European bronze medalist nevertheless managed a season’s best with 81.72 points.

“It is great to be back in China, it is already the second time for me this season. As for my performance, obviously I am not happy with what I’ve done. I made huge mistake. But I’m happy with the beginning of the program, it was quite strong,” the Italian noted.

[Camden Pulkinen](#) (USA) finished fourth on 78.92 points while 2018 ISU Grand Prix Finalist [Keegan Messing](#) (CAN) is ranked fifth (76.80 points). Skate Canada bronze medalist [Keiji Tanaka](#) (JPN) rounds up the top six with 74.64 points.

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

Dominant World Champions Sui/Han (CHN) take Pairs Short Program at Cup of China

Two-time and reigning World Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) of China once more proved their class and skated to a clear lead in the Pairs Short Program. Canadians [Liubov Ilyushechkina/Charlie Bilodeau](#) edged [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) of China for second place.

Sui/Han delivered sensual performance to ‘Blues DeLuxe’ and were ‘de luxe’ themselves, with a side-by-side triple toe, a triple twist and throw triple flip. The Olympic silver medalist collected a level four for the twist, the step sequence and the reverse lasso lift and scored 80.90 points. “It was a good performance, we skated like we do in training. This is our first competition of the season and we were a bit tight. That affected the quality of some of the elements,” Han shared.

Ilyushechkina/Bilodeau’s program to ‘My Funny Valentine’ featured a triple twist, throw triple flip and difficult Axel Lasso lift. However, Ilyushechkina stumbled and landed forward on the side-by-side triple toeloop. The Canadians got 68.98 points, a personal best for this new team. “We really like the feeling we’ve developed for this short program and it was quite stable. There were some mistakes, but we got our lucky 68 (score), and it was a season’s best,” Ilyushechkina commented.

Peng/Jin had to overcome her fall on the triple toe (under-rotated) early into their program to ‘Alegria’ from Cirque du Soleil, but came back to complete a triple twist and throw triple loop. The Skate America Champions earned 68.50 points. “Except for the mistake on the jump we are quite pleased and I feel we have improved the performance aspect since our last Grand Prix. My partner got injured at Skate America and we have not practiced the jumps much,” Jin explained.

2018 ISU Grand Prix Finalists [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) (ITA) came fourth after both went down on the solo jump (64.24 points). 2018 Four Continents Champions [Tarah Kayne/Danny O’Shea](#) (USA) finished fifth (64.08 points).

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

Shiseido Cup of China continues Saturday with the Free Dance, Ladies, Men's and Pairs Free Skating. Overall, 60 skaters/couples representing 11 ISU members compete at Shiseido Cup of China November 8-10. The top 6 qualifiers of the Grand Prix series in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Torino (ITA), December 5 to 8, 2019. Full [entry lists, results, the General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series are available on 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](#).

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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.