

November 9, 2019

Chongqing, China

## **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20**

### **Shiseido Cup of China, Day Two**

Home crowd favorites World Pairs Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN) and [Boyang Jin](#) (CHN) struck gold as Shiseido Cup of China concluded Saturday in Chongqing with the Free Skating and the Free Dance. World Ice Dance silver medalists [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) (RUS) captured their first Grand Prix gold medal and rising star [Anna Shcherbakova](#) (RUS) took home her second gold this season.

#### **Sinitsina/Katsalapov (RUS) clinch first Grand Prix gold**

World silver medalists [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) of Russia clinched gold and the first Grand Prix victory of their career at Shiseido Cup of China. [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) came close and took the silver medal. Canada's [Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen](#) secured the bronze, their second Grand Prix medal.

Sinitsina/Katsalapov put out a fluid dance to 'Songs My Mother Taught Me', producing level-four twizzles, lifts and level-four spin. The Russian Champion set a new season's best of 124.51 points, but ranked second in the Free Dance. With 209.90 points overall, they remained in first place.

"We are not pleased with our performance today, not everything worked out. It was hard, but we fought to the end and were together," Katsalapov said. "We hope that next week (at Rostelecom Cup) we'll put out the kind of performance that we've been training," he added.

Chock/Bates entertained the crowd with their lively 'Egyptian Snake Dance' that included four level-four elements. The 2019 Four Continents Champions won the Free Dance segment with a new personal best score of 128.21 points. They totaled 208.55 points to win their second consecutive silver medal on the Grand Prix circuit and are likely to qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

"We skated really well today, we're super happy with how things went. We felt like we're growing and building on each performance," Bates commented.

Chock agreed: "I actually found that back-to-back Grand Prix were beneficial. It's easy to stay in competition mode. You really stay focused and in the right headspace."

Fournier-Beaudry/Sorensen turned in an emotional performance to 'Cry Me a River'. The Skate America bronze medalists picked up a level four for the lifts and twizzles while the combination spin and the one foot step sequence merited a level two. The Canadian team scored 112.33 points and accumulated 190.74 points total.

"I think our performance today is a testimony to our training. I injured my (right) knee last week and had to spend the week off the ice," Sorensen revealed. "We're really happy we ended up in third place with good skates," he added.

[Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu](#) (CHN) came fourth with a dramatic performance to ‘Swan Lake’ on 186.45 points. 2018 Four Continents Champions [Kaitlin Hawayek/ Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) placed fifth with a dance to a Flamenco version of Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5 (179.96 points).

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

### **Shcherbakova (RUS) flies high**

World Junior silver medalist [Anna Shcherbakova](#) of Russia continued her spectacular ascent, flying high to win her second Grand Prix event. Japan’s two-time World medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) skated to the silver medal while 2015 World Champion [Elizaveta Tuktamysheva](#) of Russia moved up one spot to claim the bronze.

Performing to Erik Satie’s ‘Gnossienne No. 1’ and Igor Stravinski’s ‘Firebird’, Shcherbakova reeled off a quadruple Lutz as well as a triple Lutz-triple loop combination and three more triples. However, the first quadruple Lutz in combination with a triple toe was underrotated. The Russian Champion collected a level four for two spins and scored 152.53 points. She accumulated 226.04 points overall and won with 15 points to spare.

“The free program was good, but not perfect, there were some mistakes,” the 15-year-old commented. “I am very happy that I can go to the Grand Prix Final, that was my goal. I don’t know yet what my (program) content will be, but my goal will be as always to skate clean,” the Skate America Champion added.

Miyahara’s expressive program to ‘Schindler’s List’ by John Williams and ‘Prelude in C sharp minor’ by Sergei Rachmaninov featured a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, two more clean triple jumps and difficult spins and footwork. Three jumps were under-rotated, though. Miyahara ranked third in the Free Skating with 142.27 points, but overall held on to second place at 211.18 points.

“Today I felt my body very good, better than yesterday. But I was still trying too hard at the end of the program,” Miyahara shared. “My next Grand Prix is in Russia next week. This is the first time for me to do two Grand Prix in a row and I am excited about that, but also need to take care of my body,” the two-time World medalist said.

Tuktamysheva nailed her trademark triple Axel twice in her upbeat routine to ‘You Don’t Love Me’, ‘Petite Fleur’ and ‘Cat Groove’ and followed up with four more clean triples. She only stepped out of a triple Lutz. The 2015 European Champion posted a season’s best of 143.53 points which added up to a total of 209.10 points.

“I feel much better today than yesterday and I’m happy with my skate,” Tuktamysheva told the press. “I have only a small chance to go to the Grand Prix Final and maybe I will go to the Challenger event in Zagreb. I’ll try to skate well and prepare for the National Championships.”

[Young You](#) (KOR) pulled up from seventh to fourth at 191.81 points. 2019 European Champion [Sofia Samodurova](#) (RUS) finished fifth at 185.29 points. [Amber Glenn](#) (USA) dropped from third to sixth after some errors (178.35 points).

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

## **Jin (CHN) overhauls Yan (CHN) to bag first Grand Prix gold**

[Boyang Jin](#) bounced back in the Free Skating to lead the Chinese men to a 1-2 finish at their home Grand Prix in Chongqing. He earned the first Grand Prix gold medal of his career. Overnight leader [Han Yan](#) slipped to second to continue a successful comeback. Italy's [Matteo Rizzo](#) secured the bronze medal.

Jin opened his performance to 'Path of Silence' and 'Yellow Moon' with a big quadruple Lutz and followed up with a quadruple toeloop-double toeloop, two triple Axel and for more triples. The only glitch came when he doubled another planned quad toe. The two-time World bronze medalist picked up 176.10 points and racked up 261.53 points overall to win the first Grand Prix gold medal of his career.

"My performance was OK, but still not as good as I have been training," Jin commented. "Last year there was no Cup of China and I am very happy that the event came back. The main colour of the rink is red, like the spicy colour of Chongqing and that motivated me a lot," the Chinese skater added.

Skating to 'La La Land', Yan, lying first after Friday's Short Program, landed a triple Axel-triple toeloop combination and four more clean triple jumps to score 162.99 points. With a total of 249.45 points, the former Chinese Champion – who sat out the past season - slipped to second place.

"I want to thank the Chinese team that they gave me the chance to come back. My performance was normal, but I didn't have the highest degree of difficulty. I am a bit surprised that can be on the podium with triple jumps. I came here like a rookie skater," Yan shared.

Rizzo's 'Galicia Flamenco' featured a quadruple toeloop, triple Axel-triple toeloop as well as four more triples and difficult spins, but he crashed on his second triple Axel. The 2019 European bronze medalist was ranked fourth in the Free Skating at 160.16 points, but held on to third place at 241.88 points.

"It was like yesterday – I had a good start and then a huge mistake in the second half of the program. I need to go home and practice a lot the second part of my short and free programs," Rizzo said.

2018 ISU Grand Prix Finalist [Keegan Messing](#) (CAN) moved up one spot to finish fourth on 237.36 points. [Keiji Tanaka](#) (JPN) placed fifth (233.62 points) and 2018 ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalist [Jun Hwan Cha](#) (KOR) came sixth (222.26 points).

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

## **Sui/Han (CHN) skate to runaway Pairs victory on home ice**

Two-time and reigning World Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) of China ruled on home ice and won with almost 30 points to spare ahead of teammates [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#). Canada's [Liubov Ilyushechkina/Charlie Bilodeau](#) earned the bronze, their first Grand Prix medal as a team.

Skating last, Sui/Han impressed with an exquisite performance to 'Rain, In Your Black Eyes' by Ezio Bosso. The Olympic silver medalists produced a triple twist, side-by-side triple toe-double toe, throw triple Salchow and flip as well as difficult lifts two of which garnered a level four. Han doubled

the side-by-side Salchow. The multiple Four Continents Champions scored 147.47 points and took the title with 228.37 points.

“The Salchow was not so consistent after my injury, but when we came here it was at 90 percent in practice. I think I lost concentration and therefore made a mistake,” Han said.

“We have now one week before our next event NHK Trophy (in Japan) and I think it is important to organize our training in this time. Our choreographer Lori Nichol will come with us to Beijing and we’ll mainly work on the short program,” he continued.

Peng/Jin’s performance to the ‘Cloud Atlas’ soundtrack was highlighted by a triple twist, throw triple loop and Salchow. However, they struggled with the side-by-side triple toeloop-double toeloop combination. The Skate America Champions posted a season’s best with 131.47 points and totaled 199.97 points. With a gold and a silver from their two events, the couple has qualified for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

“We had some problems at Skate America and Cup of China in our programs with the solo jumps and the throw jumps, the quality was not so good. We also need more speed in the second half. These are the things we want to work on before the Final,” Jin explained.

Ilyushechkina/Bilodeau completed a triple twist and innovate lifts – especially the last one with her doing a handstand on his hands - in their routine to ‘Je voudrais voir la mer’. The new team earned 121.45 points which added up to 190.73 points overall.

“It means a lot to us to have won a medal in only our second Grand Prix together. It shows that it was a good decision to come back and to skate together. We have been skating together only for eight months. When we get home, we’ll work on many things to continue the season with good programs and to improve,” Bilodeau commented.

2018 ISU Grand Prix Finalists [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) (ITA) remained in fourth place at 182.88 points. 2018 Four Continents bronze medalists [Tae Ok Ryom/Ju Sik Kim](#) (PRK) moved up from eighth to fifth place at 179.55 points.

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

Shiseido Cup of China concludes Sunday with the Exhibition Gala. Overall, 60 skaters/couples representing 11 ISU members competed 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. Cup of China was the fourth of six events in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series. The next events 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.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

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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.