

November 15, 2019

Minsk, Belarus

## Track record for Roest (NED) as Weidemann's surprise gets Canada's ladies off to a flyer

[Patrick Roest](#) (NED) started the ISU World Cup speed skating season with a track record to win the men's 5000m in Minsk on Friday. In the ladies' competition, Canada's long distance skaters staked an early claim with a gold medal for [Isabelle Weidemann](#) (CAN) and bronze for [Ivanie Blondin](#) (CAN) in the 3000m.

Roest, the World Allround Champion, beat [Jorrit Bergsma](#) (NED) and [Denis Yuskov](#) (RUS). The previous track record holder, [Sven Kramer](#) (NED), did not make the World Cup 5000m top 10 for the first time in his career. The Dutch men also ruled in the Team Sprint, taking gold ahead China and Canada.

### Roest crushes Kramer's track record

Roest had already shown early season form with a track record at the Dutch trials and he lived up to the expectations in the Minsk 5000m. Skating in the penultimate pair versus team-mate Kramer, Roest blasted away with five laps below 30-seconds. Kramer did not even try to keep up.

Roest finished in 6 minutes and 16.61 seconds, beating Kramer's 2016 track record by almost three seconds. Kramer crossed the line in a disappointing 6:28.53 to end up 13<sup>th</sup>. Yuskov was the surprise of the day.

The Russian, who targeted the 1000m and the 1500m in the past seasons, shifted his attention back to Allround Speed Skating last summer. He lost a lot of muscle weight and the renewed version of Yuskov was able to compete for the long distance podium spots in Minsk. With 6:22.54 he took bronze just 0.25 seconds behind silver medallist Bergsma.

World 5000m champion [Sverre Lunde Pedersen](#) (NOR) had a disappointing start to the season. After his preparations were hampered by a bike crash in Inzell in September, he managed to be back on the ice in time for the World Cup openers, but he still is far from championship form. With 6:30.00 Pedersen finished 14<sup>th</sup>, just behind Kramer.

### Dutch beat surprise Chinese

Earlier on Friday [Ronald Mulder](#) (NED), [Kai Verbij](#) (NED) and [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) secured gold of in the Team Sprint. The reigning World Champions edged out China by 0.15 seconds, finishing in 1:21.16.

China's best results last season were two fourth places, but motivated by the 2022 Winter Olympics their men are on the way up. Canada also finished close in Minsk, taking the bronze in 1:21.68.

### **Career second gold**

Weidemann took the second World Cup gold of her career, after having won the 3000m on the outdoor track in Tomakomai (JPN) last year, when she beat [Martina Sáblíková](#) (CZE) in a track record.

In front of an excited crowd in the Minsk Arena, Weidemann started in the sixth pairing, after Olympic champion [Carlijn Achtereekte](#) (NED) had beaten compatriot [Antoinette de Jong](#) (NED) in the fifth pairing. Achtereekte stopped the clock at 4 minutes and 5.15 seconds.

Weideman took on Olympic 5000m champion [Esmee Visser](#) (NED), who was a little bit ahead at halfway in the race, but did not have the stamina to keep up with her own pace, let alone Weidemann's. The Canadian went from 32.1 second laps to 31.9 second laps. She came less than a second short of Sáblíková's track record (4:03.79), but with 4:04.67 she was the only one to finish under 4:05.

Blondin finished in 4:06.08, leaving the silver medal to Achtereekte, and her pairmate [Marina Zueva](#) (BLR) pleased the home crowd by fighting to sixth place in 4:07.80.

Sáblíková, yet to show her best form this season, skated in the final pair versus [Natalya Voronina](#) (RUS), who took the initiative before being overtaken in the final lap. Both skaters missed out on the podium. Sáblíková came fourth in 4:06.40 and last season's World Cup No.3 Voronina had to settle for a disappointing seventh place in 4:08.07.

### **Golden debut for Michelle de Jong**

The Netherlands ruled the Team Sprint. Michelle de Jong (NED), the younger sister of European Allround champion Antoinette, made her World Cup debut, together with Jutta Leerdam and [Letitia de Jong](#) (NED). Leerdam and Letitia de Jong took last year's world title with [Janine Smit](#) (NED), but Smit did not qualify for this year's World Cup races.

Twenty-year-old Michelle de Jong lived up to her promise and launched the Dutch team to a time of 1 minute and 29.23 seconds.

Last season's Team Sprint World Cup winners Russia ([Olga Fatkulina](#), [Angelina Golikova](#), [Daria Kachanova](#)) had to settle for silver in 1:29.95 and Japan took bronze in 1:30.08.

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series please visit: [isu.org/speed-skating](http://isu.org/speed-skating). Results are [here](#) and you can follow the discussion on social media by using #WCSpeedSkating and #SpeedSkating.

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series will be available on in some countries on the ISU Skating Channel.

### **About ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series**

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating is a Series of international Speed Skating competitions which takes place annually. The Series started in 1984 and usually consists of six or seven

Events including the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final. Skaters can earn points at each competition, and the Skater who has the most points on a given distance at the end of the Series is the World Cup winner of that distance. The World Cup Competitions held from November to December serve as qualifying events for entry quotas at the ISU European, World Single Distances, World Sprint and World Allround Speed Skating Championships. A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season; For Men: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, combined 5000m / 10,000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For Ladies 500m, 1000m, 1500m, the combined 3000m / 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For further information please visit [isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating](http://isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating).