

November 16, 2019

Moscow, Russia

## **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20 Rostelecom Cup, Day 2**

Russian skaters triumphed at their home Grand Prix Rostelecom Cup and celebrated a gold medal sweep as competition wrapped up Saturday in Moscow (RUS) with the Free Skating and the Free Dance. World Ice Dance silver medalists [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsapalov](#) (RUS), World Junior Champion [Alexandra Trusova](#), Skate Canada Champions [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii](#) (RUS) and European silver medallist [Alexander Samarin](#) came out on top in Moscow in the sold-out Megasport Arena that seats 14,000 people.

### **Samarin leads Russian mens' triple triumph**

[Alexander Samarin](#) became the first Russian man in a decade to win his home Grand Prix event as he led his countrymen to a rare podium sweep at Rostelecom Cup. [Dmitri Aliev](#) and debutant [Makar Ignatov](#) claimed the silver and bronze medal.

Samarin follows in the footsteps of [Evgeni Plushenko](#) in 2009 to claim the men's title in only the second podium sweep for Russia in the history of this event. Alexei Urmanov, Plushenko and Alexander Abt claimed the first all-Russian podium back in 1998.

Samarin, who had drawn to skate last, opened his program to "Good News" by Apashe with a huge quadruple Lutz-triple toeloop combination and followed up with six triple jumps including two triple Axels and collected a level four for his three spins. The 2019 European silver medalist set a new season's best of 171.64 points and totaled 264.45 points to take his first ISU Grand Prix title. With gold from Moscow and silver from France, Samarin qualified for the first time for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

"Even though it was not my best performance, I am overwhelmed with emotions. There were mistakes, big mistakes and we'll work on it. But I'm glad to have qualified for the Grand Prix Final. That is not a bad result for the first half of the season," the Muscovite commented.

Aliev's performance to "Sound of Silence" feature a quadruple-triple toeloop combination, a solo quad toe and six triple jumps, however, one Lutz did not count as it was the third repetition of a jump, which is not allowed. The 2018 European silver medalist achieved a season's best with 169.24 points and remained in second place at 259.88 points. The Skate America bronze medalist will now have to wait and see if this will get him to Turin.

"I am pleased that I was able to show the character and save the program, because the first half did not go as planned. I don't want to repeat these mistakes. I did an extra triple Lutz that cost me a few points," the 20-year-old from St. Petersburg said.

Ignatov landed a quadruple Salchow and quadruple toeloop plus seven triples. The only error came when he popped a Salchow into a single. The Nebelhorn Trophy Champion picked up 165.33 points, a personal best score, which added up to 252.87 points overall. Ignatov won the bronze in what was his debut at the senior-level ISU Grand Prix.

"There was an incredible support that gave me strength when I had no strength left. I made one mistake, I did a single Salchow instead of a triple and that threw me off a little. I am very happy that three Russian men are on the podium and I didn't expect that to happen," the 19-year-old noted.

Olympic silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#) (JPN) remained in fourth place at 252.24 points. Skate Canada silver medalist [Nam Nguyen](#) (CAN) finished fifth (246.20 points) and [Deniss Vasiljevs](#) (LAT) came sixth at 241.09 points.

[Daniel Samohin](#) (ISR) withdrew due to injury following the morning practice. He stood in 11<sup>th</sup> place following the Short Program.

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

### **Sinitsina/Katsalapov (RUS) dance off with second Grand Prix gold**

World silver medalists [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) of Russia collected the second Grand Prix gold of their careers. Canadians [Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier](#) claimed the silver medal as both ice dance teams qualified for the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The bronze went to [Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin](#) of Spain.

Sinitsina/Katsalapov turned in a romantic and fluid dance to “Songs My Mother Taught Me” by Antonin Dvorak. The World silver medalists earned a level four for the twizzles, two lifts and the combination spin while the step sequences and the rotational lift garnered a level three. The Russian Champions posted a season’s best of 126.06 points and took the title with 212.15 points overall.

“We’re glad to have overcome the challenge of doing two Grand Prix back to back and we were able to get better scores here at our second event in both Rhythm dance and free dance,” Katsalapov said. “Now we’ll have a little rest and then we’ll get ready for the Grand Prix Final and hope to show our very best there,” he continued.

Gilles/Poirier’s lyrical dance to “Both Sides Now” by Joni Mitchell was highlighted by smooth footwork and lifts. The Skate Canada Champions collected a level four for four elements and scored 125.08 points in the Free Dance for a total of 207.64 points.

“It’s been five years since we last competed at the Grand Prix Final. In those five years we’ve had a lot of ups and downs in our career. We faced a lot of challenges. And I think in that time we also had a lot of doubts whether we’d be able to make it back on that stage and really be contenders on the international stage, vying for medal at the World Championships. I think these results just really encourage us,” Poirier said.

Hurtado/Khaliavin turned in a crisp Flamenco to “Orobroy” and “Puerto del Sol” and earned a level four for four elements as well to score a season’s best of 113.00 points. The Spanish dancers earned 185.01 points overall to win the second Grand Prix medal of their career after a silver at Rostelecom Cup a year ago.

“It was a great experience for us to close the competition after such a high level of skating. We want to bring our programs to the point that it deserves and we feel we’re on the right way. We hope that everyone enjoyed our little Spanish presentation here,” Hurtado shared.

[Natalia Kaliszek/Maksym Spodyriev](#) (POL) finished fourth on 178.70 points with at “Dirty Dancing” medley followed by [Allison Reed/Saulius Ambruvelicius](#) (LTU) at 175.43 points. [Anastasia Shpilevaya/Grigory Smirnov](#) (RUS) placed sixth (172.93 points).

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

### **“Quad queen” Trusova (RUS) strikes to take second Grand Prix gold**

Russia’s “quad queen” [Alexandra Trusova](#) took back her throne and with it her second Grand Prix gold medal at Rostelecom Cup. Olympic silver medalist [Evgenia Medvedeva](#) earned the silver and [Mariah Bell](#) (USA) took the bronze, her second on the circuit this season.

Skating to “Games of Thrones”, Trusova missed her opening quadruple Salchow but recovered instantly to reel off a quadruple Lutz, quadruple toeloop-triple toeloop, quadruple toeloop-Euler-triple Salchow as well as a triple flip and double Axel. However, she also fell on the back end of her triple Lutz-triple loop combination.

The two-time World Junior Champion collected a level four for her spins and footwork and scored 160.26 points. The 15-year-old racked up 234.47 points total and overtook overnight leader Medvedeva to take the gold.

“I am very happy to have won my second Grand Prix event and to have qualified for the Grand Prix Final. However, I made some mistakes in short and free program and I’ll continue to work to skate two clean programs next time,” Trusova said. “I would like to compete with the men, because they can do a quad in the short program and we are not allowed to. Also, it would be interesting to compete with skaters that do many quads in the programs,” she added.

Medvedeva reeled off six triple jumps including a triple Salchow-triple loop combination in her program to “Memoirs of a Geisha” and got a level four for two spins and the step sequence. The two-time World Champion set a season’s best with 148.83 points and totaled 225.76 points.

“I am very satisfied with what I did today and yesterday, finally I did what I should do,” the Olympic silver medalist noted. “It is in my plans to learn a quad, I am working on the quad Salchow, but at the same time I need to make sure I stay healthy. I’ll do everything I can for it and I hope to put it out there as soon as possible,” she added.

Bell’s performance to “Hallelujah” featured seven triples including a triple flip-triple toeloop combination. The Internationaux de France bronze medalist earned 138.56 points and remained in third place at 205.67 points overall.

“I’m also pleased with my performance today. There are some little errors, but I can go back and work on those for whatever is next,” the US skater noted.

“I think I just now start to be consistent. I don’t have limits and I don’t think why I couldn’t (learn a quad or triple Axel). We do work on some Axel exercises and I have tried a few triple Axels. Ladies skating is really moving forward. It’s super cool to be included in that. There is a lot to be said about technical elements, but there is a lot to be said about good skating as well. To have a good balance of that is I think what you really need.”

Two-time World medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) (JPN) moved up from sixth to fourth place with an emotional performance to “Hatikva” (192.42 points). [Ekaterina Ryabova](#) (AZE) placed fifth on 187.77 points. [Yuhana Yokoi](#) (JPN) pulled up from tenth to sixth place at 182.68 points.

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

### Shooting stars Boikova/Kozlovskii (RUS)

Pair skating shooting stars [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii](#) of Russia skated to their second Grand Prix gold medal with another brilliant performance in front of their home fans. Teammates [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) claimed the silver medal. Germany’s [Minerva Fabienne Hase/Nolan Seeger](#) earned the bronze, their first Grand Prix medal.

Boikova/Kozlovskii, at age 17 and 19 the youngest pair in the competition, dazzled in their James Bond themed Free Skating, hitting a side by side triple Salchow, triple toeloop-double toeloop-double toeloop, a triple twist, difficult lifts and a throw triple Salchow and loop. The 2019 European bronze medalists posted a new personal best with 149.34 points and accumulated 229.48 points overall.

“We are very glad to get to our first senior-level Grand Prix Final. We had tough competitors in our events, but we did not set the task to beat someone. In the training process, we’re just competing

with ourselves and in competition, the judges give the scores and we cannot influence that. The only thing that depends on us is to skate clean programs,” Kozlovskii told the post-event press conference.

Performing to “Ti Amo”, Tarasova/Morozov produced a triple twist, triple toe-double toe-double toe combination, big throw triple loop and Salchow as well as a level-four pair combination spin and level-four lifts. The reigning World silver medalists picked up a season’s best with 139.96 points which added up to 216.77 points overall.

“Today was not bad. Obviously, there is room for improvement, but we have our goals and our plan that we follow. We are not upset and we see that there is progress,” Morozov said.

Hase/Seegert’s performance to “House of the Rising Sun” included a triple twist, triple toe-double toe combination as well as a throw triple Salchow. However, Hase fell on the side by side triple Salchow and two-footed the throw triple loop. The German Champions were ranked fourth in the Free Skating with 118.42 points, but overall moved up to third place with 186.16 points.

“We’re very happy with this result obviously and we want to keep building on that. This is our biggest moment so far in our career. Coming here, we did not expect this result,” Seegert commented.

Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer (AUT) gave a solid performance and were ranked third in the Free Skating to move up from sixth to fourth on 182.02 points. [Ksenia Stolbova/Andrei Novoselov](#) (RUS) dropped from third to fifth after several errors (177.51 points).

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

Rostelecom Cup concludes Sunday with the Exhibition Gala.

Overall, 60 skaters/couples representing 19 ISU members competed at Rostelecom Cup November 15-17. The series continues next week with the sixth and final event NHK Trophy in Sapporo (JPN). The top 6 qualifiers of the Grand Prix series in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Turin (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](#).

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:

YouTube: [ISU Skating](#)

IG: [@ISUFigureSkating](#)

Facebook: [@ISU Figure Skating](#)

Twitter: [@ISU\\_Figure](#)

Follow the conversation with #GPFigure.

### **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.