

February 7, 2020

Seoul, Korea

ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020

Day Two

[Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) took the first title at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020 as they won the Ice Dance event in Seoul (KOR) on Friday. [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) (JPN) won the Men's Short Program with a record score.

Chock/Bates (USA) claim back-to-back Four Continents titles

[Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) defended their ISU Four Continents Championships title as the event continued Friday in Seoul (KOR). Canada's [Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier](#) moved up one spot to take the silver medal while overnight leaders [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) settled for the bronze.

Chock/Bates had drawn to skate last out of the 16 Ice Dance couples and entertained the crowd with their "Egyptian Snake Dance" to Oriental music. The US Champions produced a curve combination lift, a smooth one-foot step sequence as well as rotational lift.

However, they had to overcome a scare when Chock slipped on a transition move but the couple recovered instantly. The two-time World medalists collected a level four for the lifts, spin, twizzles and one-foot step sequence as well as a level three for the circular footwork to score 127.42 points. They totaled 213.18 points to move up to first place.

"It feels so good, I'm so happy. This is a really special event for us. We love Four Continents," Chock said. "I scared myself. Maybe I stepped on something. It was out of the blue. I was trying to catch myself," she added, referring to her fall.

Bates said: "It was a testament on how well-trained we are because we picked up really quickly from this fall that took us by surprise.

"But the jolt kind of took some energy away from us. Just coming off our National championships we were just fighting out there to put together the best performance we could and we're just so grateful that we were able to do enough."

Dancing to "Both Sides Now" by Joni Mitchell, Gilles/Poirier produced level-four twizzles, lifts and combination spin. The Canadian Champions earned 126.26 points and accumulated 210.18 points to overtake Hubbell/Donohue and win the third Four Continents medal of their career.

"We're both really proud of ourselves. Having Nationals only two weeks ago, coming here I think all the athletes are a bit tired," Gilles said. "We didn't try to overdo it and we didn't hold back either. We are very happy with ourselves. We got some great levels today."

Poirier added: "We've been very consistent this season and that's really proving we've been approaching our training the right way, we've been approaching competing the right way. We've

given ourselves the task of being on the podium at Worlds. We feel like we're getting closer and closer."

Hubbell/Donohue's program "A Star Is Born" to music by Lady Gaga featured difficult lifts and steps that merited level fours and threes. But they lost some precious points when Donohue stepped out of a twizzle. With 122.77 points, the 2019 World bronze medalists ranked third in the Free Dance and slipped to third overall at 208.72 points.

"Our performance was not the absolute best," Hubbell said. "Our Free Dance has been a rocky one for us this season. We haven't really felt like we've given our best this season but it's getting closer and we feel like we're improving."

Donohue said: "We know what we have to work on. We spent a lot of time building up our strength, now it's time to add the pedal to the metal and do the work."

[Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu](#) (CHN) remained in fourth place with a dramatic dance to "Swan Lake" (196.75 points) followed by 2019 World Junior Champions [Marjorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha](#) (CAN) on 192.11 points. 2018 Four Continents Champions [Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) pulled up from seventh to sixth at 188.49 points.

Hanyu (JPN) soars to top in Men's Short Program with record score

Two-time Olympic Champion [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) of Japan soared to a confident lead in the Men's Short Program at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Seoul (KOR) on Friday, setting a record score en route. China's [Boyang Jin](#) came second followed by [Jason Brown](#) (USA) in what was a high-level competition.

Performing to "Ballade No.1" by Chopin, Hanyu nailed a quadruple Salchow, a quad toe-triple toe, an effortless triple Axel and collected a level four for his exquisite footwork and the three spins.

The 2019 World silver medalist set a new highest score of 111.82 points.

"I think I skated with elegance today and today's performance was the most perfect performance I've ever done," Hanyu said.

"Also, I tried to express my music deeply with my feeling and I could jump higher and with more perfection. Actually, I set as a goal a score higher than 110 for myself. I grew confident during the performance because I felt so good while I skated."

Jin's program to "First Light" featured a quad Lutz-triple toe combination, a quad toe and a somewhat shaky triple Axel as well as level-four spins and steps. The two-time World bronze medalist picked up 95.83 points.

"Overall my performance was OK but it could have been better," the 2019 Four Continents silver medalist said. "The quad Lutz and the triple Axel were not as good as they could have been and I hope to do better."

"My goal is to take another medal here. I have been practicing really well and I want to perform as well as I can do in practice and meet my goal."

Brown landed a triple flip, triple Axel and triple Lutz-triple toe in his routine to “I Can’t Go On Without You” to post a season’s best of 94.71 points.

“Breaking my season’s best was my goal coming into Four Continents. As the season goes on you always want to improve your score,” the 2018 Four Continents bronze medalist commented.

“I’ve had a rough early start of the season. To be able to really learn from those events and come out and do a strong program at this Four Continents Championship makes me really proud of that.”

[Keegan Messing](#) (CAN) is within striking distance of the podium in fourth place at 94.03 points. 2020 Youth Olympic Games Champion [Yuma Kagiyama](#) (JPN) came fifth on 91.61 points and [Junhwan Cha](#) placed sixth (90.37 points).

The ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020 continue Saturday with the Pairs and Ladies Free Skating.

Where to watch and follow the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020?

Viewers will be able to watch 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](#). You will find the full list in the [Where to Watch news here](#).

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