

October 25, 2020

Las Vegas, USA

Guaranteed Rate Skate America Day Two

Two-time ISU World Figure Skating Champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA), [Mariah Bell](#) (USA), [Alexa Scimeca Knierim/Brandon Frazier](#) (USA) and two-time Ice Dance ISU World Figure Skating medalists [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) struck gold as Guaranteed Rate Skate America concluded in Las Vegas (USA) Saturday with the Free Skating and the Free Dance.

Following a decision of the ISU Council due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, the Grand Prix events are primarily domestically run events with domestic skaters and skaters who train in the host country or respective geographical region competing.

Mariah Bell (USA) claims first Grand Prix title at Skate America

[Mariah Bell](#) (USA) claimed her first ISU Grand Prix title at Guaranteed Rate Skate America. Teammates [Bradie Tennell](#) and [Audrey Shin](#) collected the silver and bronze medals.

Overnight leader Bell started her entertaining ABBA medley well with a double Axel-triple toe combination. The National silver medalist followed up with five more clean triples and two level-four spins. However, she missed her last jump, a triple Lutz attempt. Bell ranked fourth in the Free Skating with 136.25 points, but overall held on to first place with 212.73 points.

"It was a little shaky and I felt a little bit stiff, but I'm excited to be able to get my long program out kind of in a competition setting," the newly minted Skate America Champion said. "I am walking away from this performance a little bit disappointed, but at the end of the day I can be proud. I think it (the Abba medley) is something that is definitely a little out of my comfort zone, but I do feel pretty natural doing it. I have a lot of room to grow, as we all do," she added.

Skating to "Sarajevo" by Max Richter and "Dawn of Faith" by Eternal Eclipse, Tennell produced five clean triples including a triple Lutz-triple toe combination and level-four spins and footwork. The 2020 Four Continents bronze medalist only stumbled on a triple Salchow and underrotated a triple toe. Tennell won the Free Skating segment with 137.78 points and accumulated 211.07 points overall to repeat as the Skate America silver medalist.

"I'm really happy with how today's skate went. I think it was a very good first showing of this program and there is room to grow. I am very excited to continue to work on it and go home training and to improve," Tennell commented.

Shin delivered a smooth and technically solid performance to the "Modigliani" soundtrack by Guy Farley that featured a triple Lutz-triple toe, double Axel-triple toe, triple Salchow as well as three more triples. She picked up 136.38 points and totaled 206.15 to take bronze in her senior Grand Prix debut.

"I felt a little nervous before I stepped on to the ice today, but I am glad that I landed everything and I put out a good performance today," the 16-year-old shared. "Last year was a difficult year for me, because I had an ankle surgery in May. I took a few months off because of it. Once I got on I

had a lot of boot issues and blade issues but finally after a few months, before the Youth Olympic Games I worked really hard and then after that I kept trying to improve my jumps and consistency and getting those clean jumps in competition was a big goal.”

2017 National Champion [Karen Chen](#) finished fourth with a strong performance to “The Butterfly Lover” Concerto (204.90 points). [Amber Glenn](#) remained in fifth on 190.09 points while [Shan Lin](#) (CHN) moved up from seventh to sixth at 182.11 points.

Nathan Chen (USA) collects his fourth Skate America crown

Two-time ISU World Figure Skating Champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA) cruised to his fourth Skate America title. [Vincent Zhou](#) (USA) earned the silver medal and [Keegan Messing](#) of Canada took the bronze.

Chen reeled off a quad flip-triple toe, a quad toe-Euler-triple flip, quad toe-triple toe combination as well as two other triples and difficult spins and footwork in his program to music by Philip Glass. However, the US Champion popped his Axel into a single and the planned quad Salchow into a double. Nevertheless, he easily ranked first in the Free Skating with 187.98 points to rack up 299.15 overall.

“Of course I’m a little disappointed about the jumps that I missed. I should have done that,” Chen admitted. “I’m just thrilled to be here at this competition, so thankful to everyone who has been involved, to bring us together and how smoothly it went so that skaters just could focus on skating,” he continued.

Performing to “Algorithm” by Muse, Zhou fell on his opening quad Lutz, but recovered to produce a quad Lutz-triple toe, two triple Axels and three more triples. He also stepped out of an underrotated quad Salchow. The 2019 World bronze medalist scored 175.74 for a total of 275.10 points. Zhou gave himself an early birthday present: the 2017 World Junior Champion turns 20 on Sunday and claims his first ISU Grand Prix medal.

“Obviously, there were a few hiccups in the program, but overall I am very proud of myself for what I did in this competition especially considering I’ve done some pretty stupid stuff in the practices,” Zhou noted. “I am proud of my fight this week. I am proud of getting that second quad Lutz and also I’m happy with the way I performed both programs. Obviously, there is big room for growth,” he added.

Messing’s dynamic performance to “November Rain” by Guns N’ Roses was highlighted by a quad-double toe, another quad toe, two triple Axel as well as three more triples and fast well centered spins. The 2018 Olympian picked up 174.02 points, giving him 266.42 overall.

“I am pretty stoked on how I skated today. I had two little bobbles in the program, but this is one of the few times that I’ve actually been able to go out and leave everything I had out on the ice,” Messing shared. “Going into the long program, right before I stepped into my starting position, I thought this is for you guys, in Canada, to everybody who has to stay home. I am so proud that I was able to come here and have a safe competition and just have the opportunity to compete.”

2019 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Champion [Tomoki Hiwatashi](#) (USA) remained in fourth place at 245.30 points. Fifteen-year-old [Iliia Malinin](#) (USA) landed a quad toeloop and Salchow to move up

from seventh to fifth place. 2016 ISU European Figure Skating silver medalist [Alexei Bychenko](#) (ISR) finished sixth.

Golden debut for Scimeca Knierim/Frazier (USA) in Las Vegas

[Alexa Scimeca Knierim/Brandon Frazier](#) (USA) have been skating together for only a few months and celebrated a golden debut in Las Vegas (USA). The silver medal went to [Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson](#) (USA) while [Audrey Lu/Misha Mitrofanov](#) (USA) clinched the bronze. It was the first ISU Grand Prix medal for both Calalang/Johnson and Lu/Mitrofanov while it was the first Grand Prix gold medal for Scimeca Knierim and Frazier who had stood on the podium before with their previous partners.

Skating last, overnight leaders Scimeca Knierim/Frazier put out an inspiring performance to “Fall On Me” by Andrea and Matteo Bocelli. The couple from California started strongly with a big triple twist, a triple toe-double toe combination and a beautiful throw triple loop. They produced impressive lifts, two of which merited a level four. Scimeca Knierim/Frazier notched 140.58 points and took the title with 214.77 points overall.

“It is always great to have a successful event and to place well, but more than anything I think inside we’re pleased with the progress and we fell like our hard work has paid off. We’re just excited for what is to come and excited to keep improving,” Scimeca Knierim said. “We’re very happy with the progress we’ve made this week. We had to make a lot of adjustments since our virtual competition a couple of weeks ago,” Frazier noted, and revealed that the throws and twist were the most challenging elements for them when they teamed up.

Calalang/Johnson’s program to “Who Wants to Live Forever” featured a triple twist, difficult lifts and good throw triple Salchow. Calalang struggled with the side-by-side jumps, doubling the toeloop and stumbling on an underrotated triple Salchow. The team scored 136.32 points in the Free Skating for a total of 207.40 points.

“At every competition all skaters always would like to be at their best. Getting this medal for us is a great stepping stone from the points challenge and from the previous season, but we just look forward to continue working and hopefully get a few more,” Calalang shared. “We’re a little disappointed about our long (program). We had a couple of mistakes on elements that we know we can do. We go back home and keep on working,” Johnson commented.

Lu/Mitrofanov completed a triple twist, triple Salchow-Euler-double Salchow combination and triple toeloop. However, Lu fell on the throw triple loop and touched down on the throw triple Lutz. The ISU World Junior Championship competitors were ranked fourth in the Free Skating with 122.13 points but managed to edge out Cain-Gribble/LeDuc for bronze at 189.65 points overall.

“We are very happy and fortunate with this bronze medal and we are very proud of ourselves. This definitely gives us a confidence boost,” Mitrofanov told the press. “We definitely know there are certain areas where we need to improve. We continue to train hard to ensure that we’re able to improve our second marks and our technical side as well,” he added.

2018 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating silver medalists [Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc](#) (USA) remained in fourth place at 189.23 points and 2018 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Champions [Tarah Kayne/Danny O’Shea](#) (USA) finished fifth (174.35 points).

Hubbell/Donohue (USA) dance off with third Skate America title

Two-time ISU World Figure Skating Ice Dance medalists [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) added a third consecutive Skate America title to their long list of achievements with a confident victory in Las Vegas (USA) Saturday. [Kaitlyn Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA) claimed the silver medal and [Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko](#) (USA) earned the bronze.

Dancing to “Hallelujah”, Hubbell/Donohue impressed with their flow and speed. Winning their fifth ISU Grand Prix, they collected a level four for the rotational lift, combination spins and the twizzles while the one foot step sequence was rated a level three for Hubbell and a level four for Donohue. The 2020 ISU Four Continents bronze medalists scored 126.09 points and totaled 211.39 points.

“Tonight was a successful first step into the competitive season. This is a program that Zach and I are very passionate about and we already feel like we have almost a very easy time skating it because every part feels purposeful and there is something about each part that we enjoy,” Hubbell said. “While there are many things to improve going home, we’re really happy with the performance this evening and we hope that everyone enjoyed our performance,” she continued.

Hawayek/Baker showed great unison and original transitions in their program set to a selection of music by Philip Glass. The 2018 Four Continents Champions picked up a level four for the step sequences, lifts and combo spin to earn 121.32 points. They accumulated 202.47 points overall.

“Tonight was a really special night for us,” Hawayek said. “This performance at least at this point in our career feels like the most intentional, focused, strong performance we’ve had. One of the things we’ve really worked hard on this year is being able to stay a 100 percent committed to our story and to our focus from the very beginning of the program and I think we felt that was a really big success tonight, because we stayed invested every moment and that made it fly by.”

Carreira/Ponomarenko turned in a smooth performance to “Doctor Zhivago” that included level-four lifts, but the combination spin and his twizzles were rated a level two. The two-time ISU World Junior medalists collected 107.15 points for the Free Dance and accumulated 185.78 points overall.

“We are a little bit disappointed with how today went. We left a lot of points on the table,” Carreira admitted. “There are a lot of things we want to improve and change when we get back home to make this program as special as it can be. We love the music,” she added.

[Caroline Green/Michael Parsons](#) (USA) came fourth with an upbeat program to music by Prince at 178.05 points. [Molly Cesanek/Yehor Yehorov](#) (USA), debuting at a senior level ISU Grand Prix event, finished fifth on 168.09 points.

Guaranteed Rate Skate America was the first event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in the 2020/21 season. The next event will be the Shiseido Cup of China November 6-8. For full results, entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit: <https://isu.org/GrandPrix>.

Where to watch and follow the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2020?

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating will be live streamed on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#). Geo-restrictions will apply in markets where TV rights are in place. You will find the full list in the [Where to Watch news here](#).

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ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2020

- [2020 Guaranteed Rate Skate America, Las Vegas \(USA\) – October 22-24](#)
- [Shiseido Cup of China, Chongqing \(CHN\) – November 6-8](#)
- [Rostelecom Cup, Moscow \(RUS\) – November 20-22](#)
- [NHK Trophy, Osaka \(JPN\) – November 27-29](#)
- [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final – Beijing \(CHN\) postponed](#)

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final that was to be held as an Olympic Test Event on December 10-13 has been postponed. The ISU, in consultation with all stakeholders and considering the pandemic developments, is evaluating the continuation of the 2020/21 season, in particular the re-scheduling possibilities for the important Olympic Test Events.

About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six invitational international senior events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Due to the current situation, the usual selection criteria do not apply. Please see the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating page](#) for further information.