

November 7, 2020

Chongqing, CHN

### ISU Grand Prix Shiseido Cup of China Day Two

The favorites prevailed as competition wrapped up at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Chongqing Saturday. <u>Boyang Jin</u> (CHN), <u>Hongyi Chen</u> (CHN), <u>Cheng Peng/Yang Jin</u> (CHN) and <u>Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu</u> (CHN) all sealed clear victories.

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. At the Shiseido Cup of China, only Chinese athletes are competing.

### 'Black Swans' Wang/Liu (CHN) soar to victory in Ice Dance

<u>Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu</u> (CHN) flew high with their "Black Swan" Free Dance, claiming victory with 14 points to spare. <u>Hong Chen/Zhuoming Sun</u> (CHN) took the silver medal and the bronze went to <u>Wangqi Ning/Chao Wang</u> (CHN).

Wang/Liu, Olympians at PyeongChang 2018, showed off their technical and artistic abilities in a dramatic program producing spectacular lifts and intricate footwork. The multiple National champions picked up a level four for the combination spin, the lifts and the twizzles while the one foot step sequence and the diagonal footwork were rated a level three. Wang/Liu got 122.61 points for their Free Dance and totalled 206.84 points to take the title.

"We are pretty happy with today's performance," Wang said. "Because of Liu Xinyu's hand injury, we had a rushed preparation, but we did what we were able to do in practice. After he fully recovers, we hope to polish the program. Compared to last year's Cup of China, I feel we have matured and have become more experienced."

Chen/Sun's delightful dance to "I Will Wait For You" from the "Umbrellas of Cherbourg" soundtrack featured smooth step sequences and beautiful lifts. The couple collected a level four for four elements and a level three for the diagonal step sequence to score 115.69 for the Free Dance. Overall the ISU Four Continents competitors accumulated 192.26 points.

"For today, we were able to perform like we do in training," Sun said. "We used the same music (for the Free Dance like last year), but we made a new program via online classes with our overseas coaches. For the future, we hope to bring more emotions into the program."

Dancing to "Mozart L'Opera Rock", Ning/Wang's performance was highlighted by level-four lifts and a level-four combo spin. They received 102.83 points for the Free Dance, making 171.90 points overall.



"It was good and we feel we have made progress compared to last year," Wang said. "We hope to learn from this competition and we will focus on the levels in the elements that we did not get here to achieve them next time."

<u>Yuzhu Gao/Pengkun Zhao</u> finished fourth with a smooth dance to "A Thousand Years" and the "W.E." soundtrack, totalling 162.36 points. In their senior-level debut, <u>Yufei Lin/Zijian</u> <u>Gao</u> came fifth on 142.33 points.

### Hongyi Chen (CHN) in a class of her own in Chongqing

ISU World and Four Continents competitor <u>Hongyi Chen</u> of China scored a runaway victory with 38 points to spare at the ISU Grand Prix Shiseido Cup of China in Chongqing Saturday. <u>Angel Li</u> (CHN) earned the silver medal and <u>Minzhi Jin</u> (CHN) secured the bronze.

Skating to the Chinese song "I Have the Strength to Fly", Chen was in a class of her own. The ISU World competitor opened with a triple Lutz-Euler-triple Salchow combination followed by a triple toe-double toe, triple loop, triple Lutz and slightly two-footed triple flip-double toe. Her spins and footwork all merited a level four. The only error came when Chen popped an Axel. The 18-year-old earned 121.90 points for the Free Skating for a total score of 186.53 points.

"I am not completely satisfied. I regret that I did not go for the triple-triple in my second jumping pass and I missed one Axel. I felt a little tired," Chen explained. "I want to improve my technical difficulty and my performance skills. Before coming here, I adjusted the programs, the elements, the steps to find what suits me best. My next competition will be in December, so there is still some time to improve."

Li's performance to "Song for the Little Sparrow" and "La terre vue du ciel" was highlighted by a triple Lutz-double toe, triple toe-double toe as well as another triple toe and level-four spins. She only missed a triple Lutz. The 15-year-old from Shanghai scored 98.39 points for the Free Skating which added up to 148.33 points.

"I regret that I fell on my second triple Lutz. When I get back home I will focus on my physical strength," Li commented. "It was an unique opportunity for me to compete here and I tried my best. I learned a lot," she added.

Jin landed a triple toe-double toe combination, a triple toe as well as two double Axels in her routine to "Fiamme" by Roberto Cacciapaglia, but she singled a Salchow. The 16-year-old was ranked fourth in the Free Skating with 87.68 points but overall solidly remained in third at 135.43 points.

"I also made a small mistake and popped a jump, but overall I performed up to my level," Jin said. "In the future, I would like to bring the full package and also improve my skating skills."

Siyang Zhang (CHN) came in fourth on 128.20 points while <u>Lu Zheng</u> (CHN) remained in fifth place with 86.48 points.

Golden boy Boyang Jin (CHN) puts his name on Cup of China again



China's golden boy <u>Boyang Jin</u> easily jumped to his second, consecutive Cup of China title in Chongqing Saturday. <u>Han Yan</u> (CHN) continued his comeback with a repeat of last year's silver medal and newcomer <u>Yudong Chen</u> (CHN) earned the bronze on his debut at an ISU senior-level Grand Prix event.

Performing to "The House of Rising Sun", Jin – whose name means 'gold' in Chinese – reeled off a quad Lutz, quad toe-double toe, triple Axel-Euler-triple Salchow and another triple Axel. However, the two-time World bronze medalist touched down with his hand on the second quad toe and fell on the back end of a triple Lutz-triple toe combination. He scored 186.95 points and racked up 290.89 points overall.

"I am really pleased considering that I had only really prepared for two weeks and I had only one run-through of my program before," Jin said. "There is still a lot to improve, jumps to add. I did like 70 percent of the program."

Yan continued his comeback with a pristine performance to "La La Land", featuring a triple Axeltriple toe combination, triple Lutz and five more triple jumps. Two spins and the step sequence garnered a level four. The multiple Chinese champion picked up 172.25 points and totalled 264.81 points.

"I showed the level I have at this point," Yan said. "I aimed for a calm, steady performance. The people that love figure skating are very young and maybe don't know that I can do quads. I want to prove myself in the future and do the quad Salchow and quad toe."

Chen put out an enjoyable performance to "Micmacs a tire-larigot", completing a triple Axel and seven more triples. He only stepped out of a double Axel. The 16-year-old newcomer received 150.47 points, making 226.21 overall.

"I am very happy with what I did here," Chen said. "In the future I want to add more difficult jumps to my program. This was my first competition with the senior-level skaters and I have learned a lot."

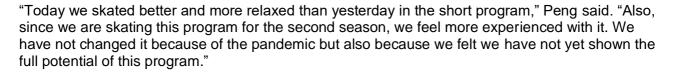
<u>He Zhang</u> (CHN) remained in fourth place with 209.74 points after a solid performance that included a triple Axel-triple toeloop combination. <u>Zhiming Peng</u> (CHN) landed a quad Salchow-double toeloop to finish fifth on 196.28 points.

#### Positive air makes Peng/Jin (CHN) the premier Pair

<u>Cheng Peng/Yang Jin</u> of China celebrated an assured and emphatic victory in the Pairs event at the ISU Grand Prix Shiseido Cup of China Saturday. <u>Yuchen Wang/Yihang Huang</u> (CHN) claimed the silver medal and <u>Daizifei Zhu/Yuhang Liu</u> (CHN) picked up the bronze.

Peng/Jin put out a confident and smooth performance of their romantic routine to "The Cloud Atlas", completing a side-by-side triple Salchow, excellent triple twist, throw triple Salchow and loop as well as five level-four elements. The only glitch came when Peng doubled the toeloop.

The two-time ISU Four Continents medalists notched 148.28 points for a total of 223.90 points. It was the second victory for them on the ISU Grand Prix after winning Skate America a year ago.



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Jin added: "We are really happy to come here and to compete with our teammates. We are just focusing on executing and completing our elements. We will analyze this competition and learn from it."

Skating to "The Lone Ranger" by Hans Zimmer, Wang/Huang produced a high triple twist, a triple toe-double toe combination and a level-four Axel Lasso lift and combination spin. However, Wang fell on the triple Salchow while he doubled and she also missed the throw triple loop.

The ISU World Junior competitors were awarded 111.84 points and accumulated 175.40 points overall.

"Overall we skated pretty well and showed what we can do in training," Huang said. "Today we tried the throw triple loop for the first time (in competition). We had some mistakes and we want to make up for it next time."

Zhu/Liu's performance to "Mulan" by Jerry Goldsmith included a triple twist, throw triple Salchow and difficult lifts, but Zhu missed the solo jumps. The team scored 86.00 points in the Free Skating and had 140.37 points overall.

"This competition is a challenge for us," Liu said. "Anything can happen in competition, including mistakes. We need to learn how to adjust mentally."

The Shiseido Cup of China concludes Sunday with the Exhibition Gala.

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit: <u>https://isu.org/GrandPrix</u>. Follow the discussion on social media by using **#FigureSkating #GPFigure**.

#### 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 <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u>. Geo-restrictions will apply in markets where TV rights are in place. You will find the full list in the <u>Where to Watch news here</u>.

Subscribe to the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u> to receive alerts when the live streams start and when new videos are posted.

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#### **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2020**

- <u>2020 Guaranteed Rate Skate America, Las Vegas (USA) October 22-24</u>
- Shiseido Cup of China, Chongging (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 a s 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 <u>ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating page</u> for further information.