

November 14, 2021

Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Poland

Dutch back to winning ways on final day in Tomaszów Mazowiecki while Takagi (JPN) celebrates her international return in style

The Dutch returned to winning ways on the final day of a tough first World Cup weekend in Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Poland. [Hein Otterspeer](#), [Thomas Krol](#) and [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) swept the podium of the Men's 1000m and the Dutch also won the Men's Team Pursuit. [Tatsuya Shinhama](#) (JPN) won the second 500m. In the Women's competition [Miho Takagi](#) (JPN) celebrated her international comeback with gold in the 1500m after her 1000m silver on Saturday. Hammering out the distance in one minute and 56 seconds, she smashed pair-mate [Ireen Wüst](#)'s 2019 track record by 0.62s. [Irene Schouten](#) (NED) took her second gold medal of the weekend with a commanding final sprint in an eventful Mass Start.

Shinhama takes 500m gold

After finishing second on Friday, Shinhama took advantage of a bumpy ride by [Tingyu Gao](#) (CHN), who won Friday's 500m in a track record (34.26 seconds).

The Chinese sprinter was 0.07s slower in his opener and lost another 0.60s in the full lap due to a couple of mis-strokes to clock 34.93s for eighth place on Sunday.

With 34.69s Shinhama was also slower than his first race but only 0.15 seconds, clocking 34.69. The 2020 World Sprint Champion kept [Laurent Dubreuil](#) (CAN) 0.03s behind.

The Canadian, who took 500m bronze on Friday, was happy with one step up to silver on Sunday.

"Hopefully one more (step up) next week. The time was actually just a bit slower. Shinhama beat me again and Gao had a major slip in the first corner but I'm happy with my race.

"My 1000m was pretty good too (fifth in 1:08.98), so it's a really good weekend to start up this season."

Dubreuil thinks he has more potential than he showed.

"I made some mistakes again but Friday I did as well. Doing a perfect race is very tough.

"It's reassuring before a race, knowing that you can make a mistake and still have a good result, instead of feeling like you need a perfect race to be on the podium. Then there's no margin for error."

Third place went to Wataru Morishige (JPN) on Sunday. Shinhama's 21-year-old countryman, who had come 11th in 34.97s on his World Cup debut on Friday, appeared to be a quick student, 0.23s faster in his second 500m race.

"I adjusted my style a little bit, which suits this track better," Morishige explained.

Dutch podium sweep in 1000m

When [Hein Otterspeer](#) (NED) got onto the ice for his 1000m race on Sunday the Dutch men had collected only one medal ([Patrick Roest](#), bronze in the 5000m on Friday) in the first World Cup weekend.

The 33-year-old Otterspeer hammered out a time of one minute, 8.67 seconds to break [Pavel Kulizhnikov](#)'s (RUS) track record time of 1:09.23.

"I was looking forward to it because I was really good at training races. I had a good Dutch Nationals (Dutch national single distance championships)," he said.

"The World Cups are really important to see where everyone's at. I'm glad I took the win today."

Otterspeer switched teams from Jumbo-Visma to Reggeborgh last winter, joining Kjeld Nuis instead of Thomas Krol.

"My time at Jambo-Visma was done. I came to a point where I had the choice and I chose Reggeborgh. It's a nice team. It is really good for me, it really works and I'm glad it paid out already."

After Otterspeer and his Japanese pair-mate [Ryouta Kojima](#) (sixth in 1:09.04), another six skaters were faster than the previous track record but none was able to beat Otterspeer's time.

Krol stopped the clock at 1:08.69 for second place and Otterspeer's new teammate Nuis seized bronze in 1:08.83, after finishing sixth in the 1500m on Saturday.

"I'm glad that I managed to regroup and took silverware after yesterday," the Olympic Champion said. "Yesterday we messed it up. Today the eagerness was back and it felt really good."

More Dutch delight in Team Pursuit

[Marcel Bosker](#), [Sven Kramer](#), and Roest followed up the Dutch podium sweep with a gold medal in the Men's Team Pursuit.

They finished in 3:44.56, leaving Canada ([Jordan Belchos](#), [Ted-Jan Bloemen](#) and [Connor Howe](#) 1.19s behind. Japan's [Seitaro Ichinohe](#), [Shane Williamson](#) and [Masahito Obayashi](#) took bronze in 3:45.81.

“It’s a long time since we’ve skated in this line-up,” Roest said. “We did a good job. It’s good to win and still see that there’s room for improvement.”

Since Norway, who finished fourth without their usual anchor [Sverre Lunde Pedersen](#) (NOR) in Tomaszów Mazowiecki, introduced a new and successful tactic last year, other countries have learned.

The Norwegians pushed each other instead of taking turns up front.

Bosker explained how the Dutch adjusted their race plan.

“We’ve got our own tactics in which we take some of the Norwegian tactics as well,” he said. “Of course there were doubts but it went well and it’s something we can build on.”

Kramer agreed: “In the past we changed a lot more and now we only changed twice (up front). It’s a bit of a gamble but we saw that it gave other countries an advantage.

“We have to be happy that we leave the others behind with such a gap because they made it difficult for us over the past couple of years.”

500m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 500m Men](#)

1000m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1000m Men](#)

Team Pursuit Men

ISU World Cup Team Pursuit Women [Standings Team Pursuit Men](#)

[Miho Takagi](#) (JPN) clearly missed international racing when Japan did not travel abroad during the Covid-19 pandemic last year as she celebrated her international comeback in style on Sunday. Hammering out the 1500m in one minute and 56 seconds, the Japanese World Allround Champion smashed her pair-mate [Ireen Wüst](#)’s 2019 track record by 0.62s. [Irene Schouten](#) (NED) took her second gold medal of the weekend with a commanding final sprint in an eventful Mass Start race.

Takagi swaps places with Bowe

Takagi went one better than the silver medal she claimed in the 1000m behind [Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) on Saturday as the order was reversed in Sunday’s 1500m.

“I’m so happy I can skate at an international level again,” Takagi said with a bright smile. “To get on top of the podium today is also great. I hope to maintain a good condition this season towards Beijing (Olympic Games 2022).”

Takagi beat Olympic 1500m Champion Wüst in the final pairing of Sunday’s 1500m.

“That doesn’t say much for the rest of the season,” the Japanese ace said. “I think the Dutch skaters haven’t shown their best skating yet but I focus on myself.”

Wüst, who finished fourth in 1:57.28, was disappointed but not concerned and said: “I come here to get medals and if possible win. I think I’ve got it in me but you still have to do it. Technically it was not very good this weekend. I had hoped for more but there’s no excuses.

“I still have enough confidence and faith that it’s going in the right direction and I hope to get a gold medal around my neck in Stavanger next week.”

Bowe took a first and second place in Poland, stopping the clock at 1:56.60 for silver in the 1500m.

Although she thought she was lucky with the draw versus [Antoinette de Jong](#) (NED) before the race, it did not turn out the way she had expected. “I thought I would get one or two drafts (on the backstretch). It didn’t work out that way for me today but that’s racing,” she said.

“I knew when I saw Miho (Takagi) get a nice draft there on Ireen Wüst that it was going to be a great race for her. That’s the beauty of it, it’s the luck of the draw, that’s the name of the game.”

Despite losing to Takagi, Bowe was excited to see her rival back on the ice.

“I didn’t have it today and it’s going to make me hungry, because I’m always going for that win. But with that said, it’s great to have the Asians back on the World Cup circuit because, it was us (North American skaters) versus the Europeans last year. To have everybody here is exciting.”

[Nadezhda Morozova](#) (KAZ), who was present in the Heerenveen bubble last season, claimed 1500m bronze in 1:56.92 for her first World Cup medal.

Schouten takes second gold in Mass Start

[Irene Schouten](#) (NED) added another World Cup gold medal to her tally in Sunday’s Mass Start, having won the 3000m on Friday.

The 29-year-old was perfectly piloted into the final lap by teammate [Marijke Groenewoud](#) and did not leave any room for [Ivanie Blondin](#) (CAN) or [Francesca Lollobrigida](#) (ITA) to threaten her in the final sprint. The Canadian and the Italian had to settle for silver and bronze.

Groenewoud had sacrificed her own chances in favour of Schouten when she chased [Valérie Maltais](#) down in the final laps. The Canadian had tried to escape three laps from the finish line.

Schouten appreciated the way the race had folded out in Tomaszów Mazowiecki.

“This was one of the most beautiful Mass Start races I’ve ever skated,” she smiled.

“The teams were not waiting for the sprint, many countries took the initiative.”

[Marina Zueva](#) (BLR) was one of the riders who tried to escape from the pack.

“I really respect Zueva because she always tries to make a good race,” Schouten added.

“The Canadians made an effort and that’s the game I like. That’s so much better than just skating in a procession towards a final sprint.”

Maltais’ attack had not been team tactics, Blondin admitted.

She said: “Our team tactics like for World Cups? We don’t have any. We race our individual races and Val (Maltais) also wants to try things differently this year.

“At the World Championships and at the Games it’s something a little bit different, where we work a little more together but as for World Cups, I’m kind of a lone wolf out there. Obviously we’re not trying to impede on each other and we tell each other what we’re going for in the race.

“I didn’t know she was going where she went but that’s fine. She tried it and I’m proud of her for that.”

1500m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1500m Women](#)

Mass Start Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Mass Start Women](#)

The event entry quotas for the individual distances will be determined by the [Special Olympic Qualification Classification \(SOQC\)](#) based on results from the different ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions and the full details are available in [ISU Communication 2405](#).

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

Where to Watch

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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ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series 2021/22:

[Tomaszów Mazowiecki \(POL\) – Nov 12 – 14, 2021](#)

[Stavanger \(NOR\) - Nov 19 - Nov 21, 2021](#)

[Salt Lake City \(USA\) - Dec 03 - Dec 05, 2021](#)

[Calgary \(CAN\) – Dec 10 - Dec 12, 2021](#)

[Final – Heerenveen \(NED\) – Mar 12 - Mar 13, 2022](#)

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. However during the Olympic season the Series consists of five Events.

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.