

November 19, 2021

Stavanger, Norway

## **Schouten (NED) shines with negative split as Dutch men fight a tight battle in 1000m**

[Irene Schouten](#) (NED) continued to dominate the long distances in the ISU World Cup. Fresh from victory in last weekend's 3000m, she was the only one to produce a negative split in the 5000m on Friday to add another gold medal to her tally. [Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) kept up her own winning ways in the 1000m in Stavanger.

In the Men's 1000m the Dutch repeated last week's podium sweep but the order was different. Last week's silver medalist [Thomas Krol](#) (NED) stood on top in what bronze medalist [Kjeld Nuis](#) (NED) labelled "the strongest event in Men's Speed Skating at the moment". [Kai Verbij](#) (NED) took silver, while last week's winner [Hein Otterspeer](#) (NED) had to settle for eighth place.

### **Track record for Schouten**

Schouten smashed [Claudia Pechstein](#)'s (GER) 2017 track record by almost four seconds with her time of six minutes and 52.83 seconds.

She started with lap times of 32.9s, 33.1s and 32.9s but her last three were 32.6s, 32.5s and 31.9s.

"I thought 'I have to skate my own race'," Schouten said. "If I go racing (my opponent) we run the risk of making it a battle between the two of us instead of going for the fastest time.

"The way we did it today, I benefited from her and she from me."

Schouten's pair-mate was [Isabelle Weidemann](#) (CAN) who took silver after an evenly paced 6:54.95.

"She (Schouten) likes to come down (in lap times)," Weidemann said. "I do a little bit better when I'm just really consistent. I haven't raced anybody like her in a long time in the 5000m, being head-to-head contending like that.

"It was something that I needed to practice today, skating my own race. I'm happy with that opportunity but obviously (there's) a lot to work on."

Weidemann hopes to be able to catch up with her Dutch rival later on in the season.

"I'm still two seconds back from her and she's on a phenomenal trajectory right now but it's given me a lot of fire.

"I need to work on my tactics a little bit more. Every time I came around I gave her a draft.

"I thought about that and I thought 'this is a mistake' every single time. So I definitely need to work on my tactics and just keep doing what I've been doing all summer.

"We haven't done a taper yet. So I'm excited to kind of come off the training a little bit and see where that gets us."

### **Norwegian pride**

After Schouten and Weidemann had completed their race, [Ragne Wiklund](#) (NOR) gave the home crowd something to cheer.

The 1500m World Champion started faster than Schouten and kept her split times under her Dutch rival's until three laps from the finish line.

Schouten had not been too worried: "I know some skaters' lap times go up towards the end. Sometimes I can win as much as two seconds in the final lap but sometimes there may be someone who manages to keep up the pace and she (Wiklund) is a very good skater."

Wiklund was happy with her performance.

"I did a 5000m in Hamar where I opened 32.6s but then it went up a bit towards the end so my plan was to open the same but just not go up in the end. I did way better than in Hamar so I'm very satisfied.

"I'm not the type of skater to do a negative split so I just try to keep it together for as long as possible and I managed to do that for a very long time."

Wiklund said: "This is early in the season. I don't have the speed for a 1500 yet but I hope that it will come later. Now I think I prefer the longer distances and hopefully I can do well in Allround as well."

### **Bowe takes back-to-back 1000m gold**

Brittany Bowe (USA) was the only one to skate under one minute and 15 seconds in the Women's 1000m on Friday, when she set 1:14.16 and beat [Nao Kodaira](#)'s (JPN) 2017 track record by 0.17s.

The podium in Stavanger was exactly the same as in Poland last week, with Japan's [Miho Takagi](#) (1:15.01) in second place and Kodaira (1:15.16) in third.

While the podium may have been the same, the winning margin was 0.84s instead of last week's 0.60s.

"If I look at it today, it's a big gap," Bowe said. "But every race is a new race, every weekend's a new weekend and the playing field is completely level again. So I'll take that one with pride and then refocus. I have some more races to execute this weekend."

### **Strongest event**

The top 10 in the Men's 1000m in Stavanger all finished within half a second after winner Krol clocked one minute and 8.66 seconds while [Taiyo Nonomura](#) (JPN), in 10th, set 1:09.16.

"This definitely is the strongest event (in Men's International Speed Skating)," Nuis said. "It has changed over the years. Some time ago the 500m was more competitive but many more men are capable of a good 1000m nowadays."

“The real sprinters are able to keep their pace while the 1500m specialists have gained a lot of speed. So it all comes together (in the 1000m).”

### **Krol versus Nuis classic**

When Krol and Nuis got onto the ice in the final pairing Verbij led the field with 1:08.68. The World Champion beat Ning Zhongyan (CHN), who set 1:08.83 to eventually finish fourth.

The battle between Krol and Verbij in either the 1000m or the 1500m has become a classic over the years. Last week in Poland they were paired up in the 1500m and were too busy trying to beat each other to skate a good time, finishing sixth and 16th.

This time Krol would not be distracted. He won the race in 1:08.66, keeping Nuis 0.02s behind.

“I know I could do so much better,” he said. “Last week’s 1500m was so bad, I could only laugh about it. That was a freak incident.”

Krol had an explanation for his poor 1500m outing.

“Everything that could go wrong, went wrong. I did not make pace, I dug into the ice, I got in trouble with Kjeld (Nuis) on the backstretch, it was a total disaster.

“My explanation would be that there was something wrong with my skate. I sharpened the blades the day before the race but one of the skates was a bit lop-sided in the block... I probably sharpened it a bit crooked which leads to a wrong angle with the ice.”

One day after the 1500m disaster, Krol made amends in the 1000m on Sunday. He beat Nuis but ended up second behind Otterspeer.

### **Dutch trials**

In Krol, Nuis, Verbij and Otterspeer the Dutch have four men who could win Olympic gold in the 1000m, which makes for a thriller at their trials in December.

“It’s super exciting. It’s the four of us and maybe even more. At least one will drop out and the question is who that will be. It’s actually quite sad that one of us has to stay home because we all have a chance at the Olympics.”

Nuis agreed with Krol and said he’s looking forward to the Dutch trials. “I’m not worried. I just think it’s cool that the margins are so tight. The three of us within one metre, awesome.

“Thomas and me, we’re lucky that Kai (Verbij) is too lazy to skate the 1500m too because he would be able to compete with us in that one.”

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

3000m/5000m Women  
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 3000m Women](#)

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

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](http://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](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the “[Where to Watch](#)” news. 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:

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For further information on ISU Speed Skating visit <https://www.isu.org/speed-skating>

**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 Championships and during the Olympic season they are Olympic Qualifying Events. A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season; For Men: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, combined 5000m / 10,000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For Women 500m, 1000m, 1500m, the combined 3000m / 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For further information please visit [isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating](http://isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating).