

November 20, 2021

Grenoble, France

Kagiyama (JPN), Shcherbakova (RUS) claim second Grand Prix golds of the season, Papadakis/Cizeron and Boikova/Kozlovskii also victorious

ISU World Champion [Anna Shcherbakova](#) (RUS), 2021 ISU World silver medalist [Yuma Kagiyama](#) (JPN), four-time ISU World Ice Dance Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA) and 2021 World Pairs bronze medalists [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitri Kozlovskii](#) (RUS) struck gold at the ISU Grand Prix [Internationaux de France](#) in Grenoble Saturday and qualified for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Shcherbakova (RUS) skates off with second Grand Prix gold of the season

2021 ISU World Champion [Anna Shcherbakova](#) of Russia skated off with her second ISU Grand Prix gold medal this season at the Internationaux de France in Grenoble Saturday. [Alena Kostornaia](#), also from Russia, secured the silver medal while Japan's [Wakaba Higuchi](#) climbed from sixth to earn the bronze.

Overnight leader Shcherbakova had to overcome a shock at the beginning of her program to "Ruska", "The Master and Margarita" and "Lacrimosa" when she slipped on the take-off for her planned quad Lutz and fell. The 2020 European silver medalist recovered instantly to hit a quad flip and seven triple jumps including triple-triple combinations. The spins and footwork merited a level four. The World Champion scored 151.75 points for a total of 229.69 points.

"I was shocked after the performance – I didn't understand what happened on my first jump and after the program I was still not realizing what happened," Shcherbakova said. "The jumps went well in the warm-up and I was very confident. The mistake threw me off and I was very upset, but I did all my elements afterwards, which was very important."

Performing to "Lovely" by Billie Eilish, Kostornaia had a shaky start as well, missing her triple Axel, but rallied to produce seven triple jumps and level-four spins. The 2019 ISU Grand Prix Final Champion set a season's best with 145.41 points and accumulated 221.85 points overall for her second Grand Prix medal this season following her bronze at Skate Canada.

"I made a mistake on my triple Axel, a big mistake," said Kostornaia. "I was shocked because I did it in the practices in Moscow and we hoped I'd do two triple Axels, but I couldn't and it was sad. But I did the other jumps and I'm happy about it."

Higuchi delivered an excellent performance to the "Lion King" that featured a slightly under-rotated triple Axel (q) and six clean triples. The 2018 World silver medalist achieved a personal best with 141.04 points, which added up to 204.91 points.

"Today was the best performance of the season and I am satisfied," said the Japanese skater. "I made some little mistakes, that's why my score was 141 points, but it is a good learning curve and I can improve going into Nationals."

[Kseniia Sinitsyna](#) (RUS) slightly under-rotated three jumps and slipped from third to fourth at 198.76 points. [Karen Chen](#) (USA) remained in fifth place at 194.00 points while [Mariah Bell](#) (USA) pulled up from 10th to sixth (190.79 points).

Shcherbakova now advances to the ISU Grand Prix Final with her two victories on the circuit. Kostornaia most likely made it with her silver and bronze, but will have to wait and see what happens next week at Rostelecom Cup.

Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA) dance in style to sixth home Grand Prix gold

Four-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) of France dominated the Internationaux de France and danced to their sixth gold medal at their home Grand Prix event ahead of Canada's [Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier](#). Russian pair [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) claimed the bronze.

Once more, Papadakis/Cizeron put on a mesmerizing performance, their dance to "Elegie" by Gabriel Fauré highlighted by intricate footwork and beautiful lifts. The five-time European Champions collected a level four for the lifts, the combination spin and her part of the twizzles and one-foot step sequence while the diagonal step sequence and his twizzles were rated a level three. The multiple French Champions scored 132.17 points and totaled 221.25 points.

"It was a good performance, but not perfect, there are some things we have to work on," Papadakis said. "There are some levels we need to work on," Cizeron added. "We have two weeks before the Grand Prix Final to improve."

Dancing to "The Long and Winding Road" by The Beatles, Gilles/Poirier executed level-four lifts, twizzles and a level-four combination spin while the midline step sequence merited a level two. The 2021 World bronze medalists earned a total of 203.16 points.

"We made some improvements compared to Skate Canada, but our score is a bit lower and we need to go back and evaluate that," Gilles said. "We are excited to go back to the Grand Prix Final and we'll go home and work on the things (levels) we lost here."

Stepanova/Bukin's dance to "Romeo and Juliet" featured five level-four elements, but the one-foot step sequence earned only a level one. The Russian Champions picked up 120.40 points, just short of their season's best, and accumulated 200.29 points.

"We've made a little step forward since our first Grand Prix in Italy and we are more satisfied with what we did here," Bukin said. "Each competition is a preparation towards the Olympic Games, regardless of the level." Stepanova added: "We hope to improve from one competition to the next to be in the best possible shape for the Olympic Games."

Papadakis/Cizeron qualified for the ISU Grand Prix Final with two wins in the series while Gilles/Poirier advance with a first and a second place. [Evgeniia Lopareva/Geoffrey Brissaud](#) (FRA) moved up one spot to finish fourth with their program to "Adagio" by Tomaso Albinoni (175.94 points). [Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko](#) (USA) came fifth on 175.91 points followed by [Annabelle Morozov/Andrei Bagin](#) (RUS) on 172.32 points.

Yuma Kagiyama (JPN) scores second Grand Prix victory of the season

The 2021 World silver medalist [Yuma Kagiyama](#) of Japan scored his second ISU Grand Prix victory of the season at the Internationaux de France in Grenoble. [Shun Sato](#) rose from fourth to second to make it one-two for the Japanese Men, while [Jason Brown](#) (USA) remained in third place to take the bronze.

Performing to music from “Gladiator”, Kagiya nailed a quad Salchow, quad toe-triple toe, a somewhat shaky solo quad toe and five triples including an Axel. His only major error came when he singled the second planned Axel. The 2021 Gran Premio d’Italia Champion earned 185.77 points and racked up 286.41 overall.

“I am really happy to win the second gold in my first Grand Prix season,” the 2020 World Junior silver medalist commented. “The Grand Prix Final was part of my goals for this season and since it takes place in Japan, I really wanted to take part there and I am glad I make it.”

Sato’s performance to “The Phantom of the Opera” featured a quad Lutz, quad flip and two quad toes that were a bit wobbly as well as two triple Axels. The 2019 ISU Junior Grand Prix Champion set a season’s best score of 177.17 points and moved up two spots with 264.99 points overall to capture the first ISU Grand Prix medal of his career.

“This is my first Grand Prix season and finishing on the podium was my goal,” Sato said. “I am really happy to be on the podium for the first time but I need to catch up to Yuma so I will work hard,” he added.

Brown opened his emotional program to “Schindler’s List” with a quad Salchow that was slightly two-footed and went on to complete five clean triples, but he singled the Salchow and doubled the loop. The 2020 ISU Four Continents silver medalist was ranked fourth in the Free Skating with 174.81 points but held on to third place on 264.20 points overall.

“This is my eighth or ninth Grand Prix season and I feel so lucky to still be up here,” Brown said. “I’m really happy to be up on the podium today. My second half (of my program) was a bit rough but I am proud of the first half. It’s definitely learning a lot as the season goes on and trying to kind of take every step along the way and grow from them and bring it into the next competition,” he continued. Brown must wait to see whether his second place at Skate Canada International and third place here in France will be enough to take him to the Final.

[Deniss Vasiljevs](#) (LAT) dropped from second to fourth place on 254.48 points. 2020 European Champion [Dmitri Aliev](#) (RUS) finished in fifth place (253.56 points) while [Keegan Messing](#) (CAN) rounded up the top six on 253.06 points. [Andrei Mozalev](#) (RUS) ranked second in the Free Skating and moved up from ninth to seventh (248.54 points).

Pair skaters Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii (RUS) claim Grenoble gold

2021 ISU World bronze medalists [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitri Kozlovskii](#) of Russia secured their first Grand Prix victory this season Saturday at the Internationaux de France in Grenoble. Teammates [Juliia Artemeva/Mikhail Nazarychev](#) took the silver, a step up from their bronze in Turin. [Alexa Knierim/Brandon Frazier](#) (USA) moved up from fourth to earn the bronze.

Boikova/Kozlovskii put out a characteristic and dynamic performance to “Malaguena” that was highlighted by a triple Salchow, triple twist, throw triple flip and loop as well as level-four lifts, pair combo spin and death spiral. The 2020 European Champions achieved a season’s best with 139.79 points and totaled 216.96 points to win the fourth ISU Grand Prix gold medal of their career.

“We fulfilled our minimum task which was to qualify for the Grand Prix Final,” Kozlovskii said. “It was much easier to skate today as this I our second competition. We skated much better than at

Skate America, there is progress, which is the most important thing. There were some small errors, really stupid ones, but that's what competitions are there for, to improve from one to the next," added Boikova.

Skating to "Fire On Fire" and "Chronos", Artemeva/Nazarychev produced a double Axel-Euler-triple Salchow combination, triple twist, throw triple flip and loop. However, Artemeva doubled the toeloop. The 2020 ISU Junior World bronze medalists netted 132.13 points which added up to 205.15 points overall.

"We are pleased for today. There was one mistake, a major one, but overall it was a good performance. We set goals for ourselves to do well on the Grand Prix and I think we fulfilled that," Nazarychev noted.

The couple will have to wait and see if their silver and bronze medals from the Grand Prix series will get them into the Final.

Knierim/Frazier completed a triple twist, triple Salchow, throw triple loop and flip. Their only error came when Frazier missed the triple toeloop. The US Champions scored 131.54 points and accumulated 201.69 points overall.

"We are very happy to win our first Grand Prix medal. We left some points on the table today but we made a lot of great improvements from our last event. We have plans to keep improving and we are proud of today's work," Knierim shared.

[Vanessa James/Eric Radford](#) (CAN) slipped from third to fourth after they aborted a lift (196.34 points). [Rebecca Ghilardi/Filippo Ambrosini](#) (ITA) came fifth on 176.19 points.

The Internationaux de France, the fifth of six events in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series, concludes Sunday with the Exhibition Gala. The Series continues next week with the final event, [Rostelecom Cup](#) in Sochi (RUS).

Viewers are able to watch the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series](#) either via their national broadcaster / channel or via the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) for countries where there is no broadcaster agreement in place. For more information please see [here](#).

The [General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series is available at the ISU website. The individual announcements are published under the respective events. For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit [here](#). The ISU has an anti-Covid protocol in place to keep all participants of the events as safe as possible.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events: [Guaranteed Rate Skate America](#) in Las Vegas (USA) October 22-24, [Skate Canada International](#) in Vancouver (CAN) October 29-31, [Gran Premio d'Italia](#) in Turin (ITA) November 5-7, [NHK Trophy](#) in Tokyo (JPN) November 12-14, [Internationaux de France](#) in Grenoble (FRA) November 19-21 and [Rostelecom Cup](#) in Sochi (RUS) November 26-28. The [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final](#) will take place in Osaka (JPN) December 9-12.

About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating

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. The top six of the past World Championships are seeded. Competitors collect points in their events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.