# PRESS RELEASE ISU.ORG



# November 28, 2021

## Dordrecht, Netherlands

# Liu lays down marker and Choi claims surprise win

Hungary's <u>Shaoang Liu</u> won his first World Cup race of the season in the final Men's individual event in Dordrecht on Sunday to reassert himself as one of the medal favorites for the upcoming Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. But there was to be no individual gold on the Women's side for favorite <u>Suzanne Schulting</u> (NED), as Korea's <u>Choi Minjeong</u> took home the 1000m title.

After a quiet World Cup campaign that had produced only one individual podium before Sunday, Liu led from the start in the 1000m in a clinical display that will give the 500m World Champion a timely confidence boost in the lead-up to Beijing.

With teammate <u>John-Henry Krueger</u> holding off the pack behind him, Liu controlled the race and was never seriously threatened. Krueger won silver and Italy's <u>Pietro Sighel</u> claimed bronze.

"It's always easier when you can skate with your teammate," said Liu's brother <u>Shaolin Sandor Liu</u>, who went out in the quarter finals.

"I was next to the ice so I was cheering for him (Shaoang). I'm really glad for him and it was a big relief for him too."

In the Men's 5000m Relay, Canada looked set for their third consecutive World Cup gold until Korea's Kwak Yoon-Gy executed a stunning overtaking move on the inside of the final turn.

Kwak and Canada's <u>Steven Dubois</u> lunged for the finish line with Korea winning by 2.3 hundredths of a second.

The Liu brothers and Krueger helped Hungary win bronze.

"It's a huge relief and I'm really happy to be done with it (the World Cup season)," said Shaolin Sandor Liu. "We got the (Olympic) spots we wanted and we are really happy."

### Choi claims last individual victory

Choi Minjeong, the Olympic 1500m Champion, went one better than her 1000m silver in Debrecen and left Suzanne Schulting to settle for third in the final individual Women's event of the World Cup season.

In a back-and-forth race that featured lead changes on virtually every turn, Canadians <u>Kim</u> <u>Boutin</u> and <u>Courtney Sarault</u> skated together from the front in the early stages as Choi kept in touch.

Late in the race, Choi mastered the frenetic pace, working her way to the front and holding on to win, with Boutin adding silver to Saturday's 500m gold.

# PRESS RELEASE ISU.ORG



"She (Choi) did a great job and she was in the right place at the right moment," Schulting said.

Poland's <u>Natalia Maliszewska</u> passed Sarault on the inside late in the race and crossed the line in third place, but she was penalized for the maneuver, allowing Olympic and World Champion Schulting to claim bronze.

"It was really tough racing," said Schulting, who conceded she was tired after skating nearly 40 races on consecutive weekends.

"It's not only just the legs but it's also mentally tough because you have to reload yourself every time."

The Dutch star bounced back from her individual disappointments, however, to claim double relay gold in the final races on Sunday.

In the Women's 3000m Relay, Schulting anchored the Netherlands team that took the lead from Canada with 11 laps remaining and were never bested thereafter.

"It was really amazing, I'm really proud of the team," Schulting said.

Canada won silver while Italy were awarded bronze after Korea, who crossed the line third, were penalized.

In an exciting Mixed Team Relay final, Netherlands pipped Hungary for gold as Dutch anchor <u>Jens</u> <u>van 't Wout</u> crossed the line 3.5 hundredths of a second ahead of <u>Shaolin Sandor Liu</u>.

Overall World Cup season Champions China claimed bronze.

### **World Cup Classification - Men**

Men 500m

Men 1000m

Men 1500m

Men 5000m Relay

## **World Cup Classification - Women**

Women 500m

Women 1000m

Women 1500m

Women 3000m Relay

## **World Cup Classification – Mixed Relay**

Mixed Relay

# PRESS RELEASE ISU.ORG



### Where to watch and follow the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating 2021/22?

Viewers will be able to watch the Saturday and Sunday afternoon (local time) World Cup sessions via their national broadcaster/channel. For countries where there are no broadcasters and for the qualification and repechage races, the ISU will offer a live stream on the <a href="Skating ISU YouTube">Skating ISU YouTube</a> Channel. You will find the full list in the Where to watch news here.

Subscribe to the <u>ISU Newsletter</u> to receive the latest information and the "<u>Where to Watch</u>" news. You can also subscribe to the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u> to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

YouTube: ISU Skating IG: @isuspeedskating

Facebook: @ISUShortTrackSpeedSkating

Twitter: @ISU Speed

Follow the conversation with #ShortTrackSkating.

For further information on ISU Short Track Speed Skating visit: <a href="https://www.isu.org/short-track">https://www.isu.org/short-track</a>.

### ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series events 2021:

Beijing, CHN October 21 – 24, 2021 Nagoya, JPN - October 28 – 31, 2021 Debrecen, HUN - November 18 – 21, 2021 Dordrecht, NED - November 25 – 28, 2021

### **About ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series**

The World Cup series consists of nine distances 500, 1000 and 1500 meters for Women and Men, Women 3000 meters Team Relay, Men 5000 meters Team Relay and a Mixed Gender Relay over 2000 meters.

The competitions have a single distance character and are held in separate sessions over four days. Day 1 and 2 are dedicated to all Qualifying Rounds. Days 3 and 4 the last Qualifying Rounds (if necessary) take place, followed by the World Cup sessions.

For the Mixed Gender Relay Teams (2 Women & 2 Men), the Women 3000 meters Relay races and Men 5000 meters Relay races a maximum of four Skaters shall compete and must belong to the same ISU Member.

During the Olympic season there are four ISU World Cup Short Track events that also serve at the Olympic qualifying events.