

April 15, 2022

Tallinn, Estonia

## ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2022, Day Two

Pair Skaters [Karina Safina/Luka Berulava \(GEO\)](#) won a historical title when they struck gold at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Tallinn (EST) Friday. Earlier, [Oona Brown/Gage Brown \(USA\)](#) took the lead in the Rhythm Dance.

### Oona Brown/Gage Brown (USA) rock the Rhythm Dance

[Oona Brown/Gage Brown \(USA\)](#) danced to a confident lead in the Rhythm Dance with Canadians [Natalie d’Alessandro/Bruce Waddell](#) and [Nadiia Bashynska/Peter Beaumont](#) following in second and third place.

Performing a fast paced Hip Hop dance to “How Ya Like Me Now”, Brown/Brown earned a level four for the twizzles and the rotational lift while the midline step sequence and the second Blues Pattern Dance were rated a level three. The brother and sister team set a new personal best with 66.98 points.

“It was a clean skate, it was strong,” said Oona Brown. “Maybe there were little things here and there that could have been better, but I feel like today it was definitely a strong enough performance that we put out,” she added.

“There were a lot of cancellations (of competitions), we had Covid in January, there were a lot of setbacks,” Gage Brown said. “The last time we competed was in October. Just to get actually out here and compete was an amazing feeling.”

D’Alessandro/Waddell put out a strong dance to music from the “Pulp Fiction” and “The Good Wife” soundtracks. They picked up a level four for the stationary lift, her twizzles and a level three and two for the Blues Pattern. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Kosice Champions earned 64.00 points.

“We are definitely very happy with our skate today,” D’Alessandro said. “Of course, we had a couple of technical lower levels, but overall we put out today what we’ve been doing in practice and we felt like we pushed everything we could.”

“We said to each other when we got off we gave it everything, and that’s something I think we are really proud of after this season.”

Bashynska/Beaumont’s Blues and Swing program was highlighted by a level-four stationary lift and level-four twizzles. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Linz bronze medalists posted a personal best of 63.45 points.

“Honestly it’s insane. I felt so in the moment. I kind of live for the feeling for performing for the audience, for the people in the crowd,” Bashynska said.

“Coming to this competition, we didn’t have any expectations as a team. We just wanted to enjoy it and let our skating speak for itself. We’re really happy with how that went,” Beaumont said.

[Darya Grimm/Michail Savitskiy \(GER\)](#) placed fourth with an upbeat Rhythm Dance at 62.47 points. [Angelina Kudryavtseva/Iliia Karankevich \(CYP\)](#) are currently ranked fifth at 62.15 points while [Angela Ling/Caleb Wein \(USA\)](#) round up the top six (61.43 points). Medal hopefuls [Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen \(USA\)](#) finished a disappointing ninth after she fell on the twizzles (57.05 points).

## **Karina Safina/Luka Berulava (GEO) score a runaway victory and historic Junior Pairs title for Georgia**

Olympic and ISU World competitors [Karina Safina/Luka Berulava](#) of Georgia scored a runaway victory with almost 19 points to spare and made history by claiming the first ISU Figure Skating Championship title for their country. Australia's [Anastasia Golubeva/Hector Giotopoulos Moore](#) earned the silver medal while Canadians [Brooke McIntosh/Benjamin Mimar](#) moved up from fourth place to take the bronze. All three couples competed in their first ISU World Junior Championships.

Skating to "In This Shirt" by The Irrepressibles, Safina/Berulava produced a triple twist, triple toe-double toe-double toe, throw triple loop and Salchow as well as innovative lifts. The only glitch came when Safina stepped out of the triple Salchow. The two-time ISU Junior Grand Prix medalists collected a level four for the twist, lifts and pair combination spin to score 120.35 points. The Georgians totalled 188.12 points to take the title.

"We are extremely happy to end the season on such a high note," Berulava said. "It was a long and busy season with many competitions and to end it with a gold medal is really nice. We are very happy for Georgia."

"We already have some figure skaters in Georgia and an ice rink will be built so hopefully this will help the development of figure skating in Georgia."

Golubeva/Giotopoulos Moore's program to "Sing Sing Sing" and "Summer Time" featured a triple toe-double toe-double toe combination, a triple Salchow and throw triple loop. However, their triple twist was wobbly and Golubeva stepped out of the throw triple Salchow.

The team picked up 108.19 points for their Free Skating which added up to 169.91 points overall. Golubeva/Giotopoulos are the third Australian Pairs team to medal at the ISU World Junior Championships after Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor won gold in 2017 and Elizabeth Cain/Peter Cain won bronze back in 1976.

"This is my first medal. We have some little mistakes in the program, but overall we're very happy," Golubeva said. "It means a lot of us. It is a huge accomplishment and amazing achievement. We'll train hard and we'll compete in juniors and seniors next season," Giotopoulos Moore added.

McIntosh/Mimar produced a triple twist, a shaky triple toe-double toe and two more triple throws in their program to "Your Song" by Elton John, but McIntosh missed the side by side triple Salchow. The Canadians earned 98.80 points for the Free Skating and accumulated 156.80 points overall.

"We're just happy to be here, thank you to the ISU and Estonia for having us," said McIntosh. "Our program was not perfect, but we're happy we got a medal."

Mimar added: "Coming here we knew we have a chance to make the top five." The Canadians will move up to the senior level in the upcoming season.

[Anastasiia Smirnova/Danylo Siianytsia](#) (USA) slipped from third to fourth after making some errors (148.43 points). [Letizia Roscher/Luis Schuster](#) (GER) remained in fifth place at 146.43 points and [Violetta Sierova/Ivan Khobta](#) (UKR) ranked sixth (134.46 points).

### **Event Schedule**

**The schedule of the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2022 is as follows:**

**Saturday, April 16**  
**Sunday, April 17**

Women's Short Program, Men's Free Skating  
Ice Dance/Free Dance, Women's Free Skating

\* Following the IOC recommendation, in order to protect the integrity of ice skating competitions and for the safety of all the participants of international ice skating competitions, the ISU Council based on Article 17.1.q) i) of the

ISU Constitution, agreed that with immediate effect and until further notice, no Skaters belonging to the ISU Members in Russia (Russian Skating Union and the Figure Skating Federation of Russia) and Belarus (Skating Union of Belarus) shall be invited or allowed to participate in international ice skating Competitions including ISU Championships and other ISU Events (Full [Statement](#) to be read on ISU website).