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Press release

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ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2018 Day 2 Review

Many tried, but there was just no stopping South Korea's powerful skaters at the 2018 World Short Track Championships.

They added seven medals to their haul on Sunday, including both Men's and Ladies' Relay golds, to take their total count to 12 over the two days of competition in Montreal, Canada.

Seven of those medals were gold, with five won by the Ladies, including Choi Min Jeong, whose 3000m Relay and Overall golds on Sunday took her total for the weekend to four.

Many happy returns to Montreal for Shim

Shim Suk Hee won the Ladies' 1000m after she won silver in the 1500m event on Saturday. It was also Shim's second World Short Track Championships title in over 1000m in Montreal, where she also won in 2014. "I'm comfortable in this city," she said, "and I'm happy to get a good result again."

Russia's Sofia Prosvirnova continued her strong showing at the Maurice-Richard Arena with a second-place finish, just behind Shim and nearly three-tenths of a second ahead of bronze medalist Li Jinyu (CHN).

"I was surprised because my best distance is 500," said Prosvirnova, "but I'm happy. It was a really good way to finish the season."

Choi Min Jeong (KOR), winner of two gold medals on Saturday, could manage only fourth place.

Hamelin in 11th heaven with latest gold

In the Men's 1000m, the crowd roared from start to finish as Charles Hamelin (CAN) led from the front to take his 11th World Short Track Championships gold and 34th medal overall.

Hamelin held strong throughout the race, increasing the gap to his nearest opponent with each lap until then end, when South Korea's Lim Hyo Jun stormed back to make it a photo finish.

There was less good news for another Canadian, Samuel Girard, who was penalized for the second day in a row.

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Choi completes hat-trick of World Championship titles

While Hamelin remains the man of the moment, there's no doubt who was the star of the weekend in the Ladies' events.

Choi Min Jeong continued South Korea's dominance with her third gold medal of the Championship in the 3000-metre Super Final.

Saturday's 500m and 1000m winner paced her race to perfection on Sunday, overhauling early pace-setter Qu Chunyu (CHN) and home favorite Kim Boutin (CAN)

Super Shaolin snares surprise silver

In the Men's 3000m Super Final, Sandor Liu Shaolin's shock victory propelled him to second place in the overall standings and a silver medal behind – who else? – that man Hamelin.

"I wasn't expecting this medal," the 22-year-old said. "It's such a big thing for me. I only qualified for the A Final in the 1500, I didn't get an individual medal. I'm not a long-distance skater and it was such a surprising thing. After the race I saw I was third overall, and then I looked up again and I saw I was in second place. I was so shocked."

Korea's Ladies prove just as strong as a team

And so to the relay, where South Korea's Ladies carried on their dominance from the individual events, finishing well ahead of the Netherlands and Canada, whose skaters have both endured disappointing weeks on the whole.

"I'm really happy for our team," Shim said.

Hamelin and home crowd denied possible farewell gold

With talk that this could be his last World Short Track Championships before retirement, Charles Hamelin was hoping to bow out with a 12th title of his career, to go with his three Olympic golds.

But despite a more closely fought race than the Ladies' Relay, the outcome was the same, with Canada (and Japan) unable to overhaul South Korea in the 5000-metre A Final.

"The crowd buoyed us," Hamelin said of the packed house at Maurice-Richard Arena, after his team came in two-tenths of a second behind the gold medalists.

"The Koreans skated such a strong race that I knew it would be tough to get the gold. I really wanted to solidify second place."

And having won overall individual gold earlier in the day, local boy Hamelin was philosophical.

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"I was missing two medals [before this year]: Olympic champion in the 1000 metres and first in overall standings at a World Championship," he said "To win it here in Montreal in front of my family and friends, I'm at a loss for words."

Find results and classifications <u>here</u>. Follow the discussion on social media by using **#ShortTrackSkating** and **#WorldShortTrack** watch the live stream on the <u>ISU Skating Channel</u>.

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About the ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2017

The ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships have both a single distance and allround format. A total of 10 World titles are up for grabs, Ladies and Men 500m, 1000m, 1500m, allround and Team Relay.

The allround classification is based on the results of each skater in the three individual distances 500m, 1000m and 1500m. After the completion of the three distances the top eight-point scorers and ties on the eighth position will skate the 3000m Super Final. For the individual distances the final points 34, 21, 13, 8, 5, 3, 2 and 1 are awarded to Final A and Final B Skaters in descending order. In the case of a penalty or did not finish in the Final A, the skater(s) concerned will be awarded points equal to the winner of the Final B. In the case of a penalty in the Final B, the skater(s) concerned will not be awarded any points. No points are awarded to skaters who receive a yellow or red card or did not start the race.