

October 31, 2021

Nagoya, Japan

Santos (USA) sees off Schulting to win first World Cup gold

The second session of this season's ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating ended with thrilling races in both the Men's and Women's Finals on Sunday, as the circuit checked off Asia on their road to the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

[Kristen Santos](#) (USA) claimed her maiden World Cup win following a fascinating final in the Women's 1000m event at the Nippon Gaishi Arena in Nagoya.

Santos overtook [Courtney Sarault](#) (CAN) with four laps to go and was able to extend her lead to narrowly beat reigning Olympic and World Champion [Suzanne Schulting](#) (NED) into second place. [Xandra Velzeboer](#) (NED) completed the podium.

It is Santos's third medal of the season, after bagging two bronze medals in the World Cup season premiere in Beijing last weekend. The 26-year-old won her first individual World Cup medal [bronze in the Women's 1000m] in Nagoya during the 2019/20 season.

"It feels really good to come back here and win gold. The past two weeks have definitely been a whirlwind," Santos said.

"They [Schulting and [Kim Boutin](#), who came in fifth] are all really amazing athletes and people that I've looked up to for so long. So to be in the mix of it with them is honestly an honor and really exciting."

The Netherlands bounce back

The Netherlands set the fastest qualifying time for the Women's 3000m relay in Saturday's semi-finals and had another good start in the A Final to take the lead.

All teams were jostling for position, however, and at one point the Netherlands fell back into fifth following a slip by Velzeboer. It could have proved costly for the Dutch side, but they fought their way back into the race.

With six laps left Netherlands reclaimed their position at the front, as Republic of Korea pushed hard to fight off Italy. Schulting was skating the Netherlands' anchor lap and whipped through to secure victory, while the Koreans took silver ahead of Italy.

"I'm really happy with how this day has been panning out, despite me finishing second in the Women's 1000m earlier. I've learned a lot from today and that will definitely help me out for the rest of the season and at the Olympics," Schulting said.

Ren races to gold

In the Men's 1000m, [Hwang Daeheon](#) (KOR) hoped to continue his strong start to the season, having already secured four medals (two gold and one silver and bronze), but he was forced to withdraw from the quarter finals for medical reasons.

[Ren Ziwei](#) (CHN) took full advantage of the absence of the world record holder at this distance. The 24-year-old led from the start to pocket gold at the Nippon Gaishi Arena in Nagoya.

With two laps to go, [Shaolin Sandor Liu](#) (HUN) crashed out when he tried to overtake Ren. It left [Itzhak de Laat](#) (NED) and [Pascal Dion](#) (CAN) to fight it out for silver and bronze, with the former prevailing.

"I'm very happy and excited with this win. I wanted to be more upfront; be the one to make the first move and was then able to successfully defend throughout my race," Ren said.

"I want to maintain this feeling for the rest of the season with Beijing 2022 coming up. I'm very happy about the opportunity to compete in my homecountry, but I also feel the pressure."

Photo finish separates Canada and China

The Men's 5000m Relay culminated in a nail-biter of a last lap, as a photo finish had to determine the outcome of the race.

China led for most of the Final, but [Steven Dubois](#) (CAN) showed he had still something left in the tank as he passed around the outside on the last corner to lunge himself across the finish line.

It proved just enough as Canada beat China by 0.013 seconds to win gold. Hungary completed the podium by claiming bronze.

"It was a really good race. We tried to explode as strong as we could in the last twelve laps, so we could stick to the front and battle for the gold medal – and that's exactly what we did," Hamelin said.

"It's always fun to have a great finish after back-to-back World Cups. For us to be where we're at in a relay, it's pretty awesome. We have a young team with new faces, so this is a strong statement, don't take Canada for granted from now on."

Team Russia get to celebrate

The Mixed 2000m Relay was won by the Russian team of [Ekaterina Efremenkova](#), [Semen Elistratov](#), [Sofia Prosvirnova](#), and [Pavel Sitnikov](#). They clinched top spot by narrowly beating China, while Hungary came third.

The lead swung between China and Hungary for much of the race, but with five laps to go Efremenkova surged forward to push Russia to the head of the field.

With Elistratov skating the anchor leg, Russia held on to secure their first gold medal in an A Final of the World Cup session in Nagoya.

“Every medal is important, but I feel very happy to win this one with team Russia today. It was cool to do it all together,” Elistratov said.

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating circuit moves to Debrecen, Hungary next month - from 18-21 November - for the first instalment of an European double-header of races to conclude the Olympic season.

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating series consists of four events during 2021/22 and they are all qualifying events for Beijing 2022.

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](#)

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 [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:

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: <https://www.isu.org/short-track>.

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.

