

November 21, 2021

Debrecen, Hungary

Grand slam for Schulting (NED), while Daeheon (KOR) and Dion (CAN) make their mark in wide open men's events

Suzanne Schulting (NED) completed a remarkable grand slam of titles on Sunday, adding the 1000m gold medal to the 1500m and 500m she won on Saturday. The Netherlands phenomenon then anchored the women's relay team to victory in the 3000m relay to complete a perfect weekend.

The men's competition was more open, with [Hwang Daeheon](#) (KOR) winning the 1000m ahead of the ever-improving [Pascal Dion](#) (CAN). Dion fought back in the men's 5000m relay however, with Canada beating Korea to the gold. China won the 2000m mixed relay.

After the wild party for [Shaolin Sandor Liu](#)'s 26th birthday on Saturday, with the Hungarian favourite winning the 500m, Sunday was a more subdued affair for the home crowd. Shaolin and his brother [Shaoang Liu](#) (HUN) suffered a series of crashes and penalties to leave the locals disappointed.

But in a wide open men's field – there is no male equivalent of the all-conquering [Suzanne Schulting](#) (NED) – two skaters, [Hwang Daeheon](#) (KOR) and [Pascal Dion](#) (CAN), bolstered their reputations further as the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games approach.

Hwang has been a consistent threat in the 500m and 1500m all season, and the 2019 World Champion in the 500m looked at his very best on Saturday.

The Korean secured the 1000m with a cool skate. Dion had taken the lead after three laps and looked a likely winner, but the Canadian ended up wrestling for a line with his teammate [Jordan Pierre-Gilles](#) (CAN), allowing Hwang to move up from the back in the final lap.

Dion settled for silver, with the steadily improving [Itzak de Laat](#) (NED) taking bronze. Afterwards, everyone seemed just moderately satisfied.

"I was happy to win the gold medal, but I do not think the race was perfect," said Hwang. "I have a lot of work to do on my conditioning and a lot to improve upon. I have to keep working and get better if I'm going to win more."

Dion remains narrowly ahead of Hwang in the 1000m rankings, and is relishing the tight level of competition.

"It's true that we don't have a Schulting in the men's field," said Dion. "Anything can happen, anyone can make passes, and that makes it exciting. The races are so tight, but I'm staying consistent."

"It's hard racing Hwang. You know he is going to go fast at the end. But I got a bit unlucky bumping my teammate at the end. I lost some speed, so maybe without that, I could have won."

De Laat can also take heart that he can be in the mix for podiums as Beijing looms. "I'm pretty happy," he said. "In Nagoya and here I've been making finals, so I can see it's not an accident, and in the 1000m I'm doing good."

"I feel better every competition. I usually have a hard time at the start of the season and then improve. So hopefully I can get better again in Dordrecht next week."

"The men's field is so open, there are 20 or 30 guys that can make finals. You can win gold or be out in the heats. It's a real battle."

Canada seal gold in relay

Dion's day improved further as he secured the men's 5000m relay gold alongside Pierre-Gilles, [Charles Hamelin](#) and [Steven Dubois](#). The Canadians held off Hwang and the Koreans, who got silver, and Hungary, who took bronze.

Dion was overjoyed at that medal – and now admits that while he initially thought he might just be benefiting from a short burst of good form at the start of the season, he is now right up there with the top contenders.

"It was a great race, and I've had five A finals in six races now, so I can see that this is not just luck for me," said Dion. "I've also had four medals in six races. That is kind of fantastic. I am just feeling really good on the ice. The confidence is there, the legs are there, and I know I can race against the best."

China won the 2000m mixed relay, with Canada second and France third. The action moves on to Dordrecht in the Netherlands next week, where the final Olympic places will be won and lost. Hwang and Dion, at least, will know they should be booked on that cherished flight to Beijing.

Grand slam of titles for Schulting

Schulting (NED) completed a remarkable grand slam of titles on Sunday at the ISU World Cup in Debrecen, adding the 1000m gold medal to the 1500m and 500m she had won on Saturday.

Schulting has achieved this feat once before, at the 2021 World Championship in Dordrecht, but this weekend's performance was possibly even more impressive. Back at that competition, the Korean and Chinese skaters were not participating. In Hungary, she defeated everything the rest of the world could throw at her.

The Netherlands phenomenon then anchored the women's team to victory in the 3000m relay to complete a perfect weekend.

Was this the best she has ever skated? Perhaps, she conceded. "Winning the three races at the World Championships was really special because it was a home crowd and it's a bigger competition, but this feels kind of the same because it was amazing, and all the world's best skaters were here," she said.

In the 1000m the whole field was gunning for Schulting. Maybe anticipating a risky physical battle in the pack, she took to the front mid race and maintained a high tempo.

[Courtney Sarault](#) (CAN) skated aggressively and was breathing down her neck, but was eventually penalised for changing line. [Natalia Maliszewska](#) (POL) meanwhile, looked like she might make a last-minute pass but was held off.

[Choi Min Jeong](#) (KOR) capitalised on the chaos to get silver, with Maliszewska taking bronze.

“The 1000m was crazy,” said Schulting. “I really felt the pressure from behind, it was the same in the semis, I did a great job with the lines. I’m so proud of myself.”

Maliszewska was delighted to get so close to the title. “At the end I was coming up to Suzanne and I thought, ‘oh my God, I’m going to make it,’ but I got bumped a bit. I’m still super happy with the race, though. I’ve trained really hard to get better at this distance, and it is coming together.

“Suzanne is just so good. I love watching her skate. She is a monster on ice. She makes me want to train harder, get stronger, and try to beat her.”

Schulting adds relay glory

Schulting then joined [Selma Poutsma](#), [Xandra Velzeboer](#) and [Yara van Kerkhof](#) to win the 3000m relay. Jostling again with Sarault of Canada and the Chinese racers, she held off another frantic assault to secure her fourth gold of the weekend. Canada got silver with China winning bronze.

“It was really amazing,” said Schulting. “We couldn’t finish better and we did an amazing job in the relay, so I’m super proud of the girls.”

She also savoured the rowdy Hungarian atmosphere – a real change for a year and a half winning medals in arenas without spectators. “It’s so nice to have a crowd again,” said Schulting.

“There was a bunch of Chinese fans, which is great, and my mum got to come, which is really special, I could wave at her after I won.

“Everyone is so nice, and they were all screaming. To have some interaction with people again is really lovely.”

China won the 2000m mixed relay, with Canada second and France third. Next week the action moves to Dordrecht, a rink Schulting knows and loves. It will take something unexpected to stop her from gaining further glory.

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.