

April 17, 2022

Tallinn, Estonia

ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2022, Day Four

Oona Brown/Gage Brown (USA) and Isabeau Levito (USA) skated to victory as the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships wrapped up in Tallinn (EST) Sunday with the Junior Free Dance and the Junior Women's Free Skating. The USA were the most successful ISU member in Tallinn, picking up four out of 12 medals and three of them were gold. Canada takes home three medals. Georgia, Korea, Kazakhstan, Australia and Japan earned one medal each.

Oona Brown/Gage Brown's golden dance

[Oona Brown/Gage Brown](#) (USA) secured a clear victory in the Ice Dance competition with almost eight points to spare while Canadians [Natalie d'Alessandro/Bruce Waddell](#) and [Nadiia Bashynska/Peter Beaumont](#) collected the silver and bronze medals.

Brown/Brown put out a dynamic dance to songs by Muse, earning a level four for their combination spin, twizzles and lifts. The one-foot step sequence merited a level three while the circular step sequence was a level two. The brother-and-sister team improved their personal best by almost 10 points with 103.27 points and accumulated 170.25 points overall.

"Overjoyed is the correct word how we are feeling," Gage Brown said. "A lot went into the season. The motivation went up and down a lot for the two of us.

"We had a date for (Junior) Worlds and then we didn't. Then we had one and we didn't. The motivation was going up and down, but getting back in the athletic training wasn't much of a problem. Mentally it was a little harder, physically it was fine," he said.

"It was definitely worth the wait," Oona Brown added.

D'Alessandro/Waddell's powerful performance to the "Black Swan" soundtrack was highlighted by their lifts and twizzles. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Kosice Champions had a level four for three elements and a level three for the twizzles. The Canadian Junior Champions were ranked third in the Free Dance with 98.56 points but overall remained in second place at 162.56 points.

"Overjoyed is an understatement for me. Honestly, it has not really sunk in yet. It is hard to describe. We are Junior World medalists," said Waddell.

"We're so happy. This season we trained so hard, so many early mornings and finishing it off on the podium in a competition like this still has not sunk in," D'Alessandro added.

Dancing to "Caruso" and "And the Waltz Goes On", Bashynska/Beaumont completed level-four twizzles and a level-four spin as well as a level-three step sequence. The couple placed fifth in the Free Dance with 94.19 points but held on to the bronze on 157.64 points.

"It didn't sink in yet and I feel like it will take a long time to actually realize that this happened and it wasn't just like a dream," Bashynska said.

The team had returned recently to a previous Free Dance. "We loved this program and I think we were able to deliver the feeling, our love and the story to the ice today," she said.

All three teams are still junior age eligible, but have not yet made a decision whether to move up to the senior level or compete at the junior level.

[Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen](#) (USA) came back strong after their flawed Rhythm Dance in their Free Dance set to “Rain, In Your Black Eyes”. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Courchevel Champions were second in the Free Dance and pulled up from ninth to fourth place at 157.27 points.

[Darya Grimm/Michail Savitskiy](#) (GER) delivered a fluid performance to “Sarabande” and came fifth at 154.48 points. [Hannah Lim/Ye Quan](#) (KOR) moved up one spot to sixth place at 154.44 points.

Isabeau Levito (USA) golden in Junior World debut

[Isabeau Levito](#) (USA) beat [Jia Shin](#) of Korea by a slim margin to win the gold medal in what was an exciting Junior Women’s final in Tallinn. [Lindsay Thorngren](#) (USA) pulled up from fourth place to earn the bronze. Levito and Shin had their debut at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships while Thorngren had competed in Tallinn at the 2020 ISU World Junior Championships.

Skating to Petr Tchaikovski’s “Russian Dance”, Levito nailed a triple toe, triple loop, two double Axels, triple flip-triple loop, triple Lutz-Euler-triple Salchow as well as level-four spins. All three combinations were in the second half of the program. The 15-year-old scored 134.05 points and totaled 206.55 points to become the first American since Rachel Flatt in 2008 to win the Junior Women’s world title.

“Honestly, we put all the work in our training and when we are coming to competition we are just collecting our scores and medals,” Levito said. “A medal is just the reflection of our training and how well we did with our moves. I was very in the moment (in my program) and I just focused on one element at a time until the music ended.”

Shin’s performance to “Love Me If You Dare” was highlighted by a triple Lutz-triple toe combination, five more triples and difficult spins and footwork. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Baltic Cup bronze medalist achieved a personal best of 136.63 points and won the Free Skating segment. Overall, the 14-year-old, who is the youngest skater in the event (together with Olesya Ray, GER) remained in second place at 206.01 points.

“My medal at Junior Worlds makes me so happy. It’s my first Junior Worlds and very special and I was very nervous competing,” Shin said. Her silver medal is the first ISU Junior World medal for Korea since 2006 when Yuna Kim had won gold.

“My free program is about love,” Shin said. “At first I am shy and don’t know how to express my love, but then in the step sequence I let the person I love go, but he remains in my heart.”

Thorngren delivered another excellent performance to “The Queen’s Gambit” which featured seven triple jumps including two triple-triple combinations. The 16-year-old set a personal best with 133.28 points and accumulated 199.42 points.

“I’m really proud of myself for coming back and skating a clean program after the last Junior Worlds,” the ISU Junior Grand Prix Courchevel Champion said. She came a disappointing 26th place back in 2020. “Now I have a good experience and don’t have to think about what happened two years ago.”

[Ahsun Yun](#) (KOR) gave a strong performance, landing seven triple jumps, but nevertheless slipped from third to fourth place at 195.87 points. [Seoyeong Wi](#) (KOR) in fifth completed a strong showing of the Korean women (186.72 points). [Clare Seo](#) (USA) moved up from 10th place to sixth at 182.81 points.

The ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2023 are to be held in Calgary (CAN).

