

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS: CHEMIN DE PRIMEROSE 2 - CH 1007 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
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2001 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, Salt Lake City, Utah **Day One**

The third 2001 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships began in Salt Lake City, Utah Wednesday with 108 skaters participating from 13 ISU Member countries.

Ice Dance

The Championships opened with Compulsory Dances, the Westminster Waltz and the Silver Samba. Canadian National champions, Shae-Lynn Bourne/ Victor Kraatz took the lead, skating confidently and smoothly in both Compulsory Dances. Their flowing performance was rewarded with marks ranging from 5.5 to 5.8s with all nine judges placing them first. "Technically and artistically it felt very good today. It's nice to be here before the Olympics. The ice quality is wonderful and we skated the way we wanted to skate", commented Bourne. "It's important for us because it's the Olympic venue. So we get a feel for the whole situation and environment", added Kraatz.

Defending champions Naomi Lang/ Peter Tchernyshev (USA) took second in both dances, showing good speed and unison. They are followed by Marie France Dubreuil/ Patrice Lauzon (CAN), who performed overall two flowing dances, but made a little mistake in each one. "We skated two solid performances today. I think from here, we'll only gain momentum", said a satisfied Tchernyshev.

Pairs

Canada's National champions and defending Four Continents Pair Champions Jame Sale/David Pelletier took the lead in the Short Program ahead of World silver medallists Xue Shen/Hongbo Zhao of China.

The Chinese pair was the third to skate in the first group, producing a flowing and clean performance to "Allegretto" by Karl Jenkins, including a spectacularly high double twist. Their marks included a total of nine 5.7s and four 5.8s. "We felt very good today although there was an incident (of an unexpected ice resurfacing of the ice for safety reasons due to a significant amount of sequins which fell from a previous skater's dress) that caused an adjustment in our mood. So, we did pretty well. It was the first time we had such an incident", explained Zhao.

Sale/Pelletier followed in the second group, skating a jazzy and sultry performance to "Come rain or Shine" from the soundtrack of "Forget Paris." Their clean and confident program included excellent side by side triple toeloops and a difficult lift, giving them that edge over the Chinese pair. All nine judges placed the Canadians first, their marks ranged from 5.4 to 5.8 for required elements but their presentation marks included a total of five 5.9s. "Our nationals was so-so. So, we just wanted to come in and do it better than we did two weeks ago. I think we accomplished. We are very happy with our short", explained Pelletier. Sale added, "Personally we really enjoyed skating here. The practice rink, the atmosphere has been great. It's very positive for us knowing that the Olympics are here".

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Third were Kyoko Ina/ John Zimmerman (USA). Zimmerman had a shaky landing on the side by side triple toeloop and Ina put her hand down on the throw triple salchow but the rest of their performance was fine. "It felt great, but we're perfectionists and little things just annoy us so much. Aside from our little quirks about it, it felt great", said Inna. "I think the intensity that we came out with today was a lot more than Nationals... we were comfortably intense", commented Zimmerman.

Men

In the Men's Short Program, Chengjiang Li of China was the first of the top contenders to take to the ice. The two-time Four Continents silver medallist opened his dynamic Short Program to the Tarzan soundtrack with an effortless looking quadruple toeloop. He went on to produce a triple Axel-triple toeloop combination and a fast step sequence. However, he stepped out of the double Axel at the end of the performance. "I wasn't focused enough on the Axel. It's an easy jump", he commented. "I wasn't nervous, I felt really good going out there. So I really should have done better today." Li had to wait and see where he would end up.

Matthew Savoie of the USA skated in the second flight and delivered a clean program that featured a triple Axel, a triple flip-triple toeloop combination and a triple lutz out of steps as well as well centered spins. "I haven't been skating this performance as well as I would like to", he explained. "This is probably the second best (performance) in competition. My Short at the Cup of Russia was a little bit cleaner I think, but I think I improved on presentation in this performance, so it's a tradeoff." Last to skate was 1996 World Champion Todd Eldredge (USA). He opted for a triple flip-triple toeloop combination and also pulled off a high triple Axel and a triple Lutz. His fast spins were the best of the field. With this performance the 29-year-old earned first place ordinals from all nine judges. "The flip-toe could have had more flow, but I did everything I wanted to do", Eldredge said immediately after he skated. "If everyone else had skated great, then I probably would have had to try it (the quadruple toeloop). You don't have to go out there and kill yourself just to prove a point. You go out there to win."

The judges were divided on the following skaters. Li placed second ahead of Savoie.

Apart from Li, four other men landed a quadruple toeloop in the Short: Emanuel Sandhu (CAN), Takehi Honda (JPN-quadruple-triple toeloop combination), Min Zhang (CHN – quadruple-triple toeloop combination) and Yamato Tamura (JPN – quadruple-double toeloop combination).

The Championships continue tomorrow (Thursday) with the Original Dances, Pairs Free and the Ladies Short Programs.

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2001 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships Day One

Results

Ice Dance

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	C1	C2	OD	FD
1	Shae-Lynn BOURNE / Victor KRAATZ	CAN	0.4	1	1		
2	Naomi LANG / Peter TCHERNYSHEV	USA	0.8	2	2		
3	Marie-France DUBREUIL / Patrice LAUZON	CAN	1.2	3	3		
4	Jessica JOSEPH / Brandon FORSYTH	USA	1.6	4	4		
5	Megan WING / Aaron LOWE	CAN	2.0	5	5		
6	Beata HANDRA / Charles SINEK	USA	2.4	6	6		
7	Nakako TSUZUKI / Rinat FARKHOUTDINOV	JPN	2.8	7	7		
8	Weina ZHANG / Xianming CAO	CHN	3.2	8	8		
9	Nozomi WATANABE / Akiyuki KIDO	JPN	3.6	9	9		
10	Ru FAN / Bin SUO	CHN	4.0	10	10		
11	Olga AKIMOVA / Andrei DRIGANOV	UZB	4.4	11	11		
12	Portia DUVAL-RIGBY / Francis RIGBY	AUS	4.8	12	12		
13	Julia KLOCHKO / Ramil SARKULOV	UZB	5.2	13	13		
14	Natalie BUCK / Trent NELSON-BOND	AUS	5.6	14	14		
15	Alexandra MARTIN / Daniel PRICE	AUS	6.0	15	15		

Pairs

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Jamie SALE / David PELLETIER	CAN	0.5	1	
2	Xue SHEN / Hongbo ZHAO	CHN	1.0	2	
3	Kyoko INA / John ZIMMERMAN	USA	1.5	3	
4	Kristy SARGEANT-WIRTZ / Kris WIRTZ	CAN	2.0	4	
5	Tiffany SCOTT / Philip DULEBOHN	USA	2.5	5	
6	Qing PANG / Jian TONG	CHN	3.0	6	
7	Danielle HARTSELL / Steve HARTSELL	USA	3.5	7	
8	Anabelle LANGLOIS / Patrice ARCHETTO	CAN	4.0	8	
9	Yuko KAWAGUCHI / Alexander MARKUNTSOV	JPN	4.5	9	
10	Natalia PONOMAREVA / Evgeni SVIRIDOV	UZB	5.0	10	
11	Marina AGANINA / Artem KNYAZEV	UZB	5.5	11	

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Men

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Todd ELDREDGE	USA	0.5	1	
2	Chengjiang LI	CHN	1.0	2	
3	Matthew SAVOIE	USA	1.5	3	
4	Takeshi HONDA	JPN	2.0	4	
5	Yamato TAMURA	JPN	2.5	5	
5	Michael WEISS	USA	2.5	5	
7	Ben FERREIRA	CAN	3.5	7	
8	Anthony LIU	AUS	4.0	8	
9	Min ZHANG	CHN	4.5	9	
10	Roman SKORNIKOV	UZB	5.0	10	
11	Yunfei LI	CHN	5.5	11	
12	Jayson DENOMMEE	CAN	6.0	12	
13	Emanuel SANDHU	CAN	6.5	13	
14	Yosuke TAKEUCHI	JPN	7.0	14	
15	Bradley SANTER	AUS	7.5	15	
16	Kyu-Hyun LEE	KOR	8.0	16	
17	Ricky COCKERILL	NZL	8.5	17	
18	Juri LITVINOV	KAZ	9.0	18	
19	Vladimir BELOMOIN	UZB	9.5	19	
20	Mauricio MEDELLIN	MEX	10.0	20	
21	Simon THODE	NZL	10.5	21	
22	Manuel SEGURA	MEX	11.0	22	

For further information please contact:

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