

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 Two**

The 2001 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships continued in Salt Lake City, Utah with the Original Dance, the Pairs Free, and the Ladies Short Programs.

Ice Dance

The rhythms for this season's Original Dance are set to a "Rhythms Combination", the choice being 2 to 3 rhythms from the Foxtrot, Quickstep, Charleston, or March.

After the Original Dance, overnight leaders Shae-Lynn Bourne/Victor Kraatz (CAN) kept their lead ahead of defending champions Naomi Lang/Peter Tchernyshev (USA), followed by Canada's Marie-France Dubreuil/Patrice Lauzon.

Of these top three couples, Lang/Tchernyshev were the first to skate. They produced an elegant Foxtrot and Quickstep set to "Fly me to the Moon" by Frank Sinatra and to "One Minute Tramp" by C. Basie. In their performance, the Americans showed good unison and hydroblade moves, earning them marks ranging from 5.4 to 5.7 for composition and 5.5 to 5.7 for presentation. "I would say this was one of our best performances", said Lang. "I think we approached this competition by wanting to put our best skating into performances rather than just practices and see how it works next to the best teams in the world" continued Tchernyshev.

Next to skate of the top contenders were the 2000 Four Continents silver medallists, Dubreuil/Lauzon. They delivered an expressive Foxtrot and Quickstep to the mood of "L-O-V-E" by Nat King Cole and "My Melancholy Baby from the "Forget Paris Soundtrack". All nine Judges placed them third. Dubreuil said: " Our season started really well. We feel that we are continuously on the rise. We hope to skate a strong Free Dance tomorrow... We just want to have a good competition before the Worlds".

Today's winners opted for the same rhythms as their competitors. Bourne/ Kraatz performed their Original Dance with confidence, speed and unison featuring intricate steps set to a combination of tunes: "Jumpin' Jack" and "Hey Big Spender" Their strong and expressive performance earned the Canadians first place ordinals from all nine Judges. "We've progressed (in this dance) much further since Canadians. At Canadians, we went out and attacked, but it was also a confidence builder. It just kept growing every day because we felt better. We made changes in the Original Dance prior to Nationals after Germany (the Sparkassen Cup on Ice) ... adding more expression, more flow where we felt it was missing flow. This was a big thing for us to be able do it again before the Worlds", explained Bourne.

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Pairs

The first medals of the 2001 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships were awarded at the conclusion of the Pairs' event, which featured tough competition.

In third place after the Short Program, Kyoko Ina/ John Zimmerman (USA), were the first of the top three placed couples to take to the ice. Their dynamic Free Program to "Variations on a Theme of Paganini" by Andrew Lloyd Webber, featuring innovative lifts and clean throws, was just blemished when Zimmerman stepped out of the landing in their opening side by side triple toeloop. Their marks ranged from 5.4 to 5.6 for technical merit and 5.6 to 5.8 for presentation, keeping Ina/Zimmerman in third place. "It was a little tough. We didn't expect to be as tough as it was, because we were on such a roll from Nationals and yesterday it went so smoothly", commented Ina. Zimmerman said (on focusing on the lifts): "We tried to be original in this aspect. We have aspects of our skating that we still need to improve on the technical side. We want to make it more exciting than your typical overhead and typical star lift".

Two-time World silver medallists, Xue Shen/Hongbo Zhao (CHN), second after the Short, were next to skate. They opened their flowing "Spirit of Spring" program with strong side by side double Axel- triple toeloop sequence, followed by solid side by side triple toeloops. Their program also featured a high triple twist and two spectacular triple throws, however, their side by side spin was a little out of synch. The Judges awarded the Chinese Pair with technical marks ranging from 5.7 to 5.9 for technical merit and 5.7 to 5.8 for presentation. Zhao said: "My legs felt shaky because of the jet lag and the altitude. But we've trained very hard and we were able to cope with it. We changed some things in our program after Skate America and we did three international competitions in a row where we skated clean – the Cup of Russia, NHK Trophy and now here. Our goal is to present a perfect performance, and I think we came close to it today".

Last to skate were overnight leaders, Jame Sale/ David Pelletier of Canada. They began their dramatic "Tristan and Isolde" program with a perfect throw triple loop followed by solid side by side triple toeloops. Sale and Pelletier also included a spectacular triple twist, a high throw triple salchow and inventive lifts in their passionate performance. They earned three 5.9's including four 5.8s for technical merit and a perfect 6.0 for presentation, to take the gold medal. "Finally, our first clean long together since a summer competition...Tonight we just stepped on did the throw and every element happened...When I finished, there was nothing, just happiness", explained Sale.

"Our long program felt really amazing" said Pelletier. "Two weeks ago at Nationals, it didn't really feel good. We wanted to do a much better thing here – to feel more relaxed and not feel the pressure of winning. Skating to win is no fun, but skating to enjoy it is".

Ladies

The Ladies' Short Program was the last competition of the day and brought a few surprises. 1999 Four Continents Champion Tatiana Malinina of Uzbekistan opened her expressive Tango program with a beautiful triple lutz-double toeloop combination but then she two-footed the triple flip and the double Axel. However, her performance included excellent spins and nice footwork. Finally, this gave Malinina the edge over her competitors and she won the Short Program. "It was not so

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clean. I two-footed the flip and Axel”, Malinina conceded. “It happened because of nervousness. I was terribly nervous going into that competition, because I didn’t compete so much this season.”

Two competitors from Japan came in second and third. Japanese Champion Fumie Suguri also landed a clean triple lutz-double toeloop combination, but she fell on the triple flip. “I got nervous going into it”, Suguri explained. “That’s why I was too slow and fell. Overall the program was much better than at Nationals. So the only thing I’m dissatisfied about is the triple flip.” Shizuka Arakawa, a National bronze medallist, delivered a clean program that featured a triple lutz-double toeloop combination and a triple flip. However, Arakawa was lacking speed and her spins didn’t match the quality of her competitors’ spins. Arakawa herself was surprised to finish third in the first portion of the event. “I wasn’t doing really well in practices when I came to Salt Lake City. Consequently, I was very uptight going into the Short Program today. I’m not only surprised about my placement but also about my good performance.”

Defending champion Angela Nikodinov of the USA had a disappointing performance, popping the flip and the Axel, and faded to seventh.

The Judges were divided on the top skaters. Malinina took first and second place ordinals, while Suguri’s placement ranged between first and sixth. Arakawa got one second place ordinal.

Results

Ice Dance

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	C1	C2	OD	FD
1	Shae-Lynn BOURNE / Victor KRAATZ	CAN	1.0	1	1	1	
2	Naomi LANG / Peter TCHERNYSHEV	USA	2.0	2	2	2	
3	Marie-France DUBREUIL / Patrice LAUZON	CAN	3.0	3	3	3	
4	Jessica JOSEPH / Brandon FORSYTH	USA	4.0	4	4	4	
5	Megan WING / Aaron LOWE	CAN	5.0	5	5	5	
6	Beata HANDRA / Charles SINEK	USA	6.0	6	6	6	
7	Nakako TSUZUKI / Rinat FARKHOUTDINOV	JPN	7.0	7	7	7	
8	Weina ZHANG / Xianming CAO	CHN	8.0	8	8	8	
9	Nozomi WATANABE / Akiyuki KIDO	JPN	9.0	9	9	9	
10	Ru FAN / Bin SUO	CHN	10.0	10	10	10	
11	Olga AKIMOVA / Andrei DRIGANOV	UZB	11.0	11	11	11	
12	Portia DUVAL-RIGBY / Francis RIGBY	AUS	12.0	12	12	12	
13	Julia KLOCHKO / Ramil SARKULOV	UZB	13.0	13	13	13	
14	Natalie BUCK / Trent NELSON-BOND	AUS	14.0	14	14	14	
15	Alexandra MARTIN / Daniel PRICE	AUS	15.0	15	15	15	

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Pairs

FPL.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Jamie SALE / David PELLETIER	CAN	1.5	1	1
2	Xue SHEN / Hongbo ZHAO	CHN	3.0	2	2
3	Kyoko INA / John ZIMMERMAN	USA	4.5	3	3
4	Qing PANG / Jian TONG	CHN	7.0	6	4
5	Tiffany SCOTT / Philip DULEBOHN	USA	8.5	5	6
6	Anabelle LANGLOIS / Patrice ARCHETTO	CAN	9.0	8	5
7	Kristy SARGEANT-WIRTZ / Kris WIRTZ	CAN	9.0	4	7
8	Yuko KAWAGUCHI / Alexander MARKUNTSOV	JPN	12.5	9	8
9	Danielle HARTSELL / Steve HARTSELL	USA	12.5	7	9
10	Natalia PONOMAREVA / Evgeni SVIRIDOV	UZB	15.0	10	10
11	Marina AGANINA / Artem KNYAZEV	UZB	16.5	11	11

Ladies

FPL.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Tatiana MALININA	UZB	0.5	1	
2	Fumie SUGURI	JPN	1.0	2	
3	Shizuka ARAKAWA	JPN	1.5	3	
4	Jennifer KIRK	USA	2.0	4	
5	Yoshie ONDA	JPN	2.5	5	
6	Annie BELLEMARE	CAN	3.0	6	
7	Angela NIKODINOV	USA	3.5	7	
8	Jennifer ROBINSON	CAN	4.0	8	
9	Amber CORWIN	USA	4.5	9	
10	Stephanie ZHANG	AUS	5.0	10	
11	Bit-Na PARK	KOR	5.5	11	
12	Carina CHEN	TPE	6.0	12	
13	Huan WANG	CHN	6.5	13	
14	Miriam MANZANO	AUS	7.0	14	
15	Joanne CARTER	AUS	7.5	15	
16	Shirene HUMAN	RSA	8.0	16	
17	Nicole WATT	CAN	8.5	17	
18	Dan FANG	CHN	9.0	18	
19	Marina KHALTURINA	KAZ	9.5	19	
20	Rocio SALAS VISUET	MEX	10.0	20	
21	Dirke O'Brien BAKER	NZL	10.5	21	
22	Diane CHEN	TPE	11.0	22	

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23	Siyin SUN	CHN	11.5	23	
24	Christine LEE	HKG	12.0	24	
25	Young-Eun CHOI	KOR	12.5	25	
26	Anastasiya GIMAZETDINOVA	UZB	13.0	26	
27	Yea-Ji SHIN	KOR	13.5	27	
28	Gladys OROZCO MONTEMAYOR	MEX	14.0	28	
29	Simone JOSEPH	RSA	14.5	29	
30	Quinn WILMANS	RSA	15.0	30	
31	Imelda-Rose HEGERTY	NZL	15.5	31	
32	Ingrid ROTH	MEX	16.0	32	

For further information please contact:

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