

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS: CHEMIN DE PRIMEROSE 2 - CH 1007 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
TELEPHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 TELEFAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL: info@isu.ch

For immediate release: February 10, 2001

2001 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, Salt Lake City, Utah **Day Four**

The 2001 Four Continents concluded with an exciting Ladies' event and the Exhibition Gala.

Ladies

The Ladies' event saw some strong performances and the standings shuffled. Angela Nikodinov of the USA was 7th in the Short Program, because she had missed two elements. The 20-year-old was determined to prove herself in the Free Skating and came back strong. Nikodinov opened her balletic "Sleeping Beauty" (by Peter Tchaikovsky) program with a high double axel and triple lutz-double toeloop combination. Nikodinov went on to pull off three more triples, but she popped her second Lutz and doubled a toeloop at the end of the flowing routine. Nikodinov scored marks between 5.3 and 5.7 for technique and between 5.4 to 5.8 for presentation. She had to wait and see what happened. "I'm really happy coming back and proving, first to myself, and then to everyone who was watching me. I just rushed the last two jumps. I need to remember how that felt and not let that happen again", a delighted Nikodinov said.

Uzbekistan's Tatiana Malinina, in first after the Short, was the first skater in the last group. The 1999 Four Continents Champion struggled with the altitude and two-footed the loop and doubled the Salchow in the first attempt. She landed four clean triples and produced excellent spins, but it was not enough in this field.

Next up was runner-up Fumie Suguri of Japan. The 20-year-old turned in a strong and elegant performance to "Jupiter" from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst. Her program featured nice spiral sequences and five clean triples (including two Lutzes), she only popped the toeloop. "I really worked hard with my coaches", the Japanese explained. "I really wanted to do my best here. My program was not a 100 percent – it was 80 or 90 percent." Suguri earned marks ranging from 5.2 to 5.8 for technical merit and for presentation. She took the lead.

Her teammate Yoshie Onda, skating next to last, produced a personal best here in Salt Lake City. She nailed seven triple jumps, but her spins were a little weak and she lacked speed overall. The 18-year-old student, who sat in 5th after the Short, claimed the bronze medal. "I feel just great. I landed everything. This was the free skating of my life", commented an overwhelmed Onda.

Defending champion Angela Nikodinov surged from 7th to 2nd and took the silver while Suguri won the Free Program and her first ISU Championship title. Malinina was ranked 5th in the Long Program and dropped to 4th. Fumie Suguri is the first Japanese Lady to win an ISU Championship since Yuka Sato took the World title in 1994. It's an interesting side note that Sato's father is Suguri's coach. It is the first time that two Japanese Ladies are on the podium in a senior ISU Championship.

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Results

Ladies

FPl.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Fumie SUGURI	JPN	2.0	2	1
2	Angela NIKODINOV	USA	5.5	7	2
3	Yoshie ONDA	JPN	5.5	5	3
4	Tatiana MALININA	UZB	5.5	1	5
5	Jennifer KIRK	USA	6.0	4	4
6	Shizuka ARAKAWA	JPN	8.5	3	7
7	Amber CORWIN	USA	10.5	9	6
8	Jennifer ROBINSON	CAN	12.0	8	8
9	Annie BELLEMARE	CAN	13.0	6	10
10	Stephanie ZHANG	AUS	14.0	10	9
11	Nicole WATT	CAN	19.5	17	11
12	Joanne CARTER	AUS	19.5	15	12
13	Bit-Na PARK	KOR	19.5	11	14
14	Miriam MANZANO	AUS	20.0	14	13
15	Huan WANG	CHN	22.5	13	16
16	Dan FANG	CHN	24.0	18	15
17	Carina CHEN	TPE	24.0	12	18
18	Shirene HUMAN	RSA	25.0	16	17
19	Dirke O'Brien BAKER	NZL	29.5	21	19
20	Rocio SALAS VISUET	MEX	31.0	20	21
21	Siyin SUN	CHN	31.5	23	20
22	Marina KHALTURINA	KAZ	33.5	19	24
23	Christine LEE	HKG	34.0	24	22
24	Diane CHEN	TPE	34.0	22	23
25	Young-Eun CHOI	KOR		25	
26	Anastasiya GIMAZETDINOVA	UZB		26	
27	Yea-Ji SHIN	KOR		27	
28	Gladys OROZCO MONTEMAYOR	MEX		28	
29	Simone JOSEPH	RSA		29	
30	Quinn WILMANS	RSA		30	
31	Imelda-Rose HEGERTY	NZL		31	
32	Ingrid ROTH	MEX		32	

For further information please contact:

Aline Bussat in Salt Lake City on +1 801 213 0166