

# 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

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## **2001 European Championships of Figure Skating, Bratislava, Slovakia** **Day Three**

The 2001 ISU European Figure Skating Championships continued in Bratislava, Slovakia, with the Ladies' Qualifying Round and the conclusion of the Pairs' competition.

### **Ladies**

Defending champion Irina Slutskaya (RUS) won the first Qualifying Group of the Ladies' competition. She gave a carefully measured performance of her balletic Don Quixote program, doing more than enough to win the Group but saving herself for the rest of the competition. She included five triples and her trademark Biellmann spin combination and her marks included one 5.8 and five 5.7s for presentation.

Elena Liashenko (UKR), a European bronze medallist back in 1995, placed second in her best performance of the season so far. Her program, set to Grieg's piano concerto, included five clean triples and earned her a total of three 5.6s and unanimous second places from the seven judges. Third was Switzerland's Sarah Meier, last season's world junior bronze medallist, by a majority verdict over Finland's Elina Kettunen.

"I did everything as I wanted to do it for today," said Slutskaya. "Of course I saved my strength for the rest of the competition. Why should I put everything into my program now?"

Last year's silver medallist Maria Butyrskaya (RUS) won the second Qualifying Group. Skating to a Russian film soundtrack, Butyrskaya gave a mature and elegant performance of the program she choreographed with coach Elena Tchaikovskaya. It included her unique triple toeloop-half loop-triple salchow combination, a further three triples and characteristically lyrical spins and steps.

"This wasn't the maximum yet," said Butyrskaya. "I'm happy with it for the qualifying. I went for the triple-triple because it's in my program."

Julia Soldatova, who won the European silver medal in 1999 representing Russia and now represents Belarus, placed second. She is also coached by Tchaikovskaya and Vladimir Kotin, coaches of Maria Butyrskaya. A surprise third was Sabina Wojtala, twice Polish national champion, skating to Rachmaninov.

### **Pairs**

The first medals of the 2001 European Championships were awarded at the conclusion of an exciting Pairs' competition.

Tatiana Totmianina & Maxim Marinin (RUS), in third place after the Short Program, were the first of the top three placed couples to take the ice. Skating to West Side Story, they produced the performance of their careers to date. They opened with side by side triple salchows followed by a high triple twist and beautiful throw triple loop. Triple toeloop/double toeloop combinations

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followed with flowing spirals and spins in a beautiful performance. They were rewarded with marks that included four 5.8s for technical merit and one 5.9 and five more 5.8s for presentation. They knew that they would be on the podium but had to wait to see what colour their medal would be.

French champions Sarah Abitbol and Stephane Bernadis, second after the Short, followed them. Skating to Rodriguez's Tristan and Isolde, they included side by side triple toeloops, a double axel into double toeloop sequence and side by side double axels in their emotional program. Abitbol put a hand down on the landing of the throw triple loop but they did not falter again, performing their unique lifts and finishing with a striking death spiral. Their marks ranged from 5.5 to 5.8 for technical merit and included four 5.8s for presentation but it was not enough to stay ahead of Totmianina & Marinin.

Last to skate were 1999 European and world champions Elena Berezhnaya & Anton Sikharulidze (RUS), in first place after the Short. They began their Charlie Chaplin program with perfect side by side triple toeloops but Berezhnaya could not quite hold the landing on the side by side double axel. From then on they were flawless, thrilling the crowd with their touching performance that featured their trademark spectacular triple twist, a high throw triple salchow and throw triple loop linked with inventive lifts and steps. They earned one 5.9 and five 5.8s for technical merit and a perfect 6.0 and eight 5.9s for presentation. The gold medal was theirs.

Totmianina & Marinin took the silver, their first Championship medal and Abitbol & Bernadis went into the record books as they became the first couple to win a fifth European bronze medal. Defending champions Maria Petrova & Alexei Tikhonov (RUS) finished fourth. 2000 silver medallists Dorota Zagorska & Mariusz Siudek (POL) had to withdraw after the Short due to Zagorska's recent ankle problem but they hope to be fit for the ISU Grand Prix final next month.

"It was a good pair skating competition," said Sikharulidze. "It is difficult to skate the program and to think about the technical side and at the same time to try to play and to make some fun for the audience." Berezhnaya added: "I pulled myself together because I knew I could not do any further mistake. I wanted to show a beautiful program."

"This was the skating of our life," said Marinin. "We never skated our program so clean." Totmianina added: "We just skated for each other tonight." (The couple recently left Natalia Pavlova and competed in Bratislava without a coach).

Bernadis said: "It was a tough competition. The last four pairs were very good. We didn't want the bronze medal so we gave everything we had. We put in a decent performance but the Russians were stronger tonight."

The Championships continue Thursday with the Original Dance and the Men's Free Program.

## **For further information please contact:**

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## 2001 European Championships of Figure Skating, Bratislava, Slovakia Day Three

### Results

#### Pairs

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Elena BEREZHNAJA / Anton SIKHARULIDZE	RUS	1.5	1	1
2	Tatiana TOTMIANINA / Maxim MARININ	RUS	3.5	3	2
3	Sarah ABITBOL / Stephane BERNADIS	FRA	4.0	2	3
4	Maria PETROVA / Alexei TIKHONOV	RUS	6.0	4	4
5	Sabrina LEFRANCOIS / Jerome BLANCHARD	FRA	8.0	6	5
6	Aliona SAVCHENKO / Stanislav MOROZOV	UKR	9.5	7	6
7	Olga BESTANDIGOVA / Jozef BESTANDIG	SVK	11.0	8	7
8	Inga RODIONOVA / Andrei KROUKOV	AZE	13.5	9	9
9	Mariana KAUTZ / Norman JESCHKE	GER	14.0	12	8
10	Viktoria SHKLOVER / Valdis MINTALS	EST	15.0	10	10
11	Michaela KRUTSKA / Marek SEDLMAJER	CZE	18.0	14	11
12	Maria KRASILTSEVA / Artem ZNACHKOV	ARM	18.5	13	12
13	Ivana DURIN / Andrei MAXIMOV	YUG	20.5	15	13
R	Dorota ZAGORSKA / Mariusz SIUDEK	POL		5	
R	Tatiana CHUVAEVA / Dmitri PALAMARCHUK	UKR		11	

#### Ladies

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	QA	QB	SP	FS
1	Irina SLUTSKAYA	RUS	0.4	1			
1	Maria BUTYRSKAYA	RUS	0.4		1		
3	Elena LIASHENKO	UKR	0.8	2			
3	Julia SOLDATOVA	BLR	0.8		2		
5	Sarah MEIER	SUI	1.2	3			
5	Sabina WOJTALA	POL	1.2		3		
7	Elina KETTUNEN	FIN	1.6	4			
7	Julia SEBESTYEN	HUN	1.6		4		
9	Viktoria VOLCHKOVA	RUS	2.0	5			
9	Galina MANIACHENKO	UKR	2.0		5		
11	Silvia FONTANA	ITA	2.4	6			
11	Vanessa GUSMEROLI	FRA	2.4		6		
13	Zoe JONES	GBR	2.8	7			
13	Tamara DOROFJEV	HUN	2.8		7		
15	Idora HEGEL	CRO	3.2	8			
15	Vanessa GIUNCHI	ITA	3.2		8		

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17	Alisa DREI	FIN	3.6	9			
17	Susanne STADLMÜLLER	GER	3.6		9		
19	Julia VOROBIEVA	AZE	4.0	10			
19	Lenka SENIGLOVA	CZE	4.0		10		
21	Roxana LUCA	ROM	4.4	11			
21	Zuzana BABIAKOVA-PAUROVA	SVK	4.4		11		
23	Karen VENHUIZEN	NED	4.8	12			
23	Hristina VASSILEVA	BUL	4.8		12		
25	Darya ZURAVICKY	ISR	5.2	13			
25	Anna WENZEL	AUT	5.2		13		
27	Anja BRATEC	SLO	5.6	14			
27	Klara BRAMFELDT	SWE	5.6		14		
29	Kaja HANEVOLD	NOR	6.0	15			
29	Olga VASSILJEVA	EST	6.0		15		
31	Ellen MAREELS	BEL	6.4	16			
31	Melania ALBEA	ESP	6.4		16		
33	Julia SELEPEN	LTU	6.8	17			
33	Julia LEBEDEVA	ARM	6.8		17		
35	Anna CHATZIATHANASSIOU	GRE	7.2		18		