

# 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@isuch

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

The 2001 ISU European Figure Skating Championships continued in Bratislava, Slovakia, with the Original Dance and the conclusion of the Men's competition.

### **Ice Dance**

After the second section of the Dance competition, the 2000 silver medallists Barbara Fusar-Poli (ITA) are in first place ahead of defending champions Marina Anissina & Gwendal Peizerat (FRA). Irina Lobacheva & Ilia Averbukh (RUS), bronze medallists two years ago, are third, ahead of last year's bronze medallists Margarita Drobiazko & Povilas Vanagas. Again it was a close fought competition between the top four couples.

For this year's Original Dance, the Rhythms Combination, skaters could choose two or three rhythms from the Fox Trot, Quickstep, Charleston or March.

The Italians, tied with the French after the Compulsory Dances, skated in the penultimate group. Their elegant and flowing Quickstep and Fox Trot, set to an Irving Berlin medley, brought rapturous applause from the crowd. It earned one perfect 6.0 for presentation and a total of six 5.9s. They had to wait to see if that was enough to take the lead.

Lobacheva & Averbukh, next of the top three to skate, opted for the same rhythms and were given two 5.8s for composition and five more for presentation. Anissina & Peizerat, also skating the Foxtrot and Quickstep, made a slight error at the end of the straight line step sequence. Their marks ranged from 5.6 to 5.8 for composition and from 5.7 to 5.9 for presentation.

The Judges were divided. Eight of the nine gave first place to Fusar-Poli & Margaglio. Anissina & Peizerat took second, by a six Judge to three majority verdict. Lobacheva & Averbukh placed third by a majority verdict (eight to one) over Drobiazko & Vanagas.

"This is our first 6.0 in the Original Dance at international level," said a delighted Margaglio. "At our Nationals last week, we got twenty four 6.0s, so we were very confident. But to do it at the European Championships - it's very emotional for us. It's just unbelievable for now. We did our best. It will be very hard to beat us."

Peizerat said: "We know we have a very good Free Dance and we want to give our best, to score the highest marks and to win strongly tomorrow. We have a lot of new things in the Free Dance. The program is much better now."

### **Men**

As expected, the Men's competition concluded with a riveting duel between the top two Russian skaters: defending champion Evgeni Plushenko, in first place after the Short, and world champion Alexei Yagudin, lying second. Plushenko was the first skater of the top group to take the ice. He

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opened his program with his unique quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop/double loop combination and moments later landed a second quadruple toeloop. With the crowd cheering his every move, the 18-year-old was simply unstoppable. Next came a triple axel/triple toeloop, well-centred fast spin combinations, all linked with fast steps and expressive choreography that used every note of the music. He was playing with the crowd as he finished his program, which included another four triples, a Biellmann spiral and spin combination. The crowd gave him a standing ovation. His marks included one perfect 6.0 and five 5.9s for technical merit and a further two 6.0s and two 5.9s for presentation.

Stanick Jeannette (FRA), in fourth place going into the Free Program, was next to skate. He knew that he had a chance of a medal at only his second European Championships. He popped his opening attempt at the quadruple toeloop but regrouped quickly to land a triple axel/double toeloop combination in his Saint-Saens program. His program included four more clean triples and he thrilled the crowd with his unique spin positions all through his program. His marks ranged from 5.3 to 5.6 for technical merit and his presentation marks included one 5.8. Would that be enough to put him on the podium?

Yagudin went on to the ice not knowing what Plushenko had done. He opened his Gladiator program with a quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop combination and then, like Plushenko, went for a second quad and just held the landing. But he singled his planned triple axel/triple toeloop combination and that error would cost him dearly. He gave everything he had in the rest of his program, landing six more triples (two in combination), and performing every element with maximum effort and expression. At the end, he was overcome with emotion, covering his face as he bowed to the crowd. The marks ranged from 5.6 to two 5.9s for technical merit and eight 5.9s for presentation. Plushenko was ahead, by a majority of seven Judge's two.

Alexander Abt, the third member of the Russian team and in third place going into the Free, was next to skate. Still suffering from a serious sinus infection, the 1999 bronze medallist just could not produce his best and he finished fifth in the Free skating.

So Plushenko won his second European title and Yagudin, winner in 1998 and 1999, had to settle for the silver. The two will meet again in the ISU Grand Prix Final in Tokyo next month. Jeannette moved up to take the bronze medal and Abt finished fourth overall.

"It was hard for me to skate," said Plushenko. "I had to skate first. It was very emotional. But I pulled myself together and did everything I wanted. When I saw the marks and I understood that I had won, it just was great for me."

"I felt great because I just did one mistake on the first triple axel but everything else was clean," said Yagudin. "This is life. Sometimes we lose, sometimes we win. I never had a season in which I won everything and beat everyone." He confirmed that he had not seen Plushenko skate. "I left immediately after the warm up and I went to a place where it was quiet. When I started, I had no idea what he did in his program."

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A delighted Jeannette said: "It was a good free program. I really was into it. It's a good feeling. The bronze medal was a dream yesterday evening and today I'm on the podium. Now I have further aims."

The Championships continue Friday with the Ladies' Short Program and the Free Dance.

## Results

### Ice Dance

FPl.	Name	Nat.	Points	C 1	C 2	O D	F D
1	Barbara FUSAR POLI / Maurizio MARGAGLIO	ITA	1.2	2	1	1	
2	Marina ANISSINA / Gwendal PEIZERAT	FRA	1.8	1	2	2	
3	Irina LOBACHEVA / Ilia AVERBUKH	RUS	3.0	3	3	3	
4	Margarita DROBIAZKO / Povilas VANAGAS	LTU	4.0	4	4	4	
5	Galit CHAIT / Sergei SAKHNOVSKI	ISR	5.0	5	5	5	
6	Kati WINKLER / Rene LOHSE	GER	6.0	6	6	6	
7	Elena GRUSHINA / Ruslan GONCHAROV	UKR	7.2	7	8	7	
8	Albena DENKOVA / Maxim STAVIYSKI	BUL	7.8	8	7	8	
9	Tatiana NAVKA / Roman KOSTOMAROV	RUS	9.0	9	9	9	
10	Isabelle DELOBEL / Olivier SCHOENFELDER	FRA	10.0	10	10	10	
11	Sylwia NOWAK / Sebastian KOLASINSKI	POL	11.0	11	11	11	
12	Eliane HUGENTOBLER / Daniel HUGENTOBLER	SUI	12.0	12	12	12	
13	Marika HUMPHREYS / Vitaly BARANOV	GBR	13.0	13	13	13	
14	Alia OUABDELSELAM / Benjamin DELMAS	FRA	14.0	14	14	14	
15	Gloria AGOGLIATI / Luciano MILO	ITA	15.0	15	15	15	
16	Kristin FREIZER / Igor LUKANIN	AZE	16.6	17	18	16	
17	Zita GEBORA / Andras VISONTAI	HUN	16.6	16	16	17	
18	Natalia GUDINA / Alexei BELETISKY	ISR	17.8	18	17	18	
19	Katarina KOVALOVA / David SZURMAN	CZE	19.2	20	19	19	
20	Valentina ANSELMINI / Fabrizio PEDRAZZINI	ITA	20.4	21	21	20	
21	Stephanie RAUER / Thomas RAUER	GER	20.8	19	22	21	
22	Alexandra KAUC / Filip BERNADOWSKI	POL	21.6	22	20	22	
23	Zuzana DURKOVSKA / Marian MESAROS	SVK	23.2	24	23	23	
24	Alla BEKNAZAROVA / Yuri KOCHERZHENKO	UKR	24.0	23	25	24	
25	Anna MOSENKOVA / Sergei SYCHOV	EST	25.2	27	24	25	
26	Tiffany HYDEN / Vazgen AZROJAN	ARM	25.8	25	26	26	
27	Alissa de CARBONNEL / Alexander MALKOV	BLR	26.8	26	27	27	
28	Kamilla SZOLNOKI / Dejan ILLES	CRO	28.0	28	28	28	
29	Tatiana SINIAVER / Tornike TUKVADZE	GEO	29.0	29	29	29	
30	Ana GALITCH / Andrei CHICHKOV	BIH	30.2	30	31	30	
31	Dominyka VALIUKEVICIUTE / Aurimas RADISAUSKAS	LTU	30.8	31	30	31	

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## Men

FPL.	Name	Nat.	Points	QB	QA	SP	FS
1	Evgeni PLUSHENKO	RUS	2.0		1	1	1
2	Alexei YAGUDIN	RUS	3.6	1		2	2
3	Stanick JEANNETTE	FRA	7.2	3		5	3
4	Alexander ABT	RUS	7.6	2		3	5
5	Sergei DAVYDOV	BLR	12.2		4	6	7
6	Andrejs VLASCENKO	GER	12.8		6	4	8
7	Ivan DINEV	BUL	13.0		3	13	4
8	Frederic DAMBIER	FRA	14.2	7		9	6
9	Stéphane LAMBIEL	SUI	15.2		5	7	9
10	Robert KAZIMIR	SVK	18.6	5		11	10
11	Vakhtang MURVANIDZE	GEO	19.0	8		8	11
12	Markus LEMINEN	FIN	20.8		7	10	12
13	Vitali DANILCHENKO	UKR	24.8	4		17	13
14	Konstantin KOSTIN	LAT	26.8		9	12	16
15	Gheorghe CHIPER	ROM	26.8		2	15	17
16	Silvio SMALUN	GER	28.4		12	16	14
17	Sergei RYLOV	AZE	29.6		8	14	18
18	Alexei KOZLOV	EST	30.0	6		21	15
19	Robert GRZEGORCZYK	POL	35.4		14	18	19
20	Michael SHMERKIN	ISR	36.0	10		20	20
21	Kristoffer BERNTSSON	SWE	39.0	9		24	21
22	Konstantin TUPIKOV	UKR	39.2	12		19	23
23	Kevin van der PERREN	BEL	41.2	15		22	22
R	Dmitry DMITRENKO	UKR			10	23	
25	Zoltan TOTH	HUN		11		25	
26	Angelo DOLFINI	ITA			11	27	
27	Gregor URBAS	SLO			13	26	
28	Alan STREET	GBR		13		28	
29	Hristo TOURLAKOV	BUL			15	29	
30	Daniel PEINADO	ESP		14		30	
31	Lukas RAKOWSKI	CZE			16		
31	Clemens JONAS	AUT		16			
33	Aidas REKLYS	LTU		17			
33	Panagiotis MARKOUIZOS	GRE			17		
35	Milos MILANOVIC	YUG		18			

**For further information please contact:**

Aline Bussat/Penny Dain in Bratislava on +421 749149 406

E-mail: [isupress@euroskate2001.sk](mailto:isupress@euroskate2001.sk).