

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS: CHEMIN DE PRIMEROSE 2 - CH 1007 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
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2001 World Junior Figure Skating Championships **Day Four**

The 2001 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships continued in Sofia, Bulgaria, with the Original Dance and the Men's Free Program.

Ice Dance

The Original Dance counts for 30 percent of the skaters' final score. The music must be selected from the designated rhythms. The rhythms for the Original Dance this season are Foxtrot, Quickstep, Charleston and March, and the skaters must choose two or three from these.

Defending champions Natalia Romaniuta/Daniil Barantsev of Russia retained their lead in the Original Dance. Tanith Belbin/Benjamin Agosto (USA) placed second and Elena Khaliavina/Maxim Shabalin (RUS) came in third. Of the top couples, Belbin/Agosto were first to skate and they produced a harmonious and fluid Foxtrott (to "More") and Quickstep (to "Girls, Girls, Girls") that featured an excellent dance spin. Then, Belbin slipped and almost fell in the straight line footwork sequence, but she recovered immediately and didn't miss a beat. The winners of the Junior Grand Prix Final scored marks up to 5.5 for composition and up to 5.8 for presentation. Then, Romaniuta/Barantsev took to the ice and skated an elegant Foxtrott (to "Why don't you do right") and a fast paced Quickstep (to "Gimme that thing") that contained intricate footwork at high speed. The Judges awarded them marks from 5.4 to 5.7 for composition and from 5.5 to 5.9 for presentation. The Russian team got eight first place ordinals while Belbin/Agosto had one. Khaliavina/Shabalin delivered a solid Original Dance, which was also set to the Foxtrott and Quickstep and remained in third.

"We were a bit nervous about the parallel footwork sequence, because we had missed the twizzles at the Russian Junior Nationals, but we did it now", Barantsev said. The team enjoys competing in Sofia, because they have trained in Bulgaria during the past years. "We have come here on a regular basis during the past five years. We know the language a bit and have friends in Sofia", Barantsev explained.

"Aside from our small mistake in the straight line footwork I think that this was the strongest we've skated our Original Dance all year", Belbin said. "We were really confident going into it. We really enjoyed the program." Khaliavina/Shabalin also had to concentrate hard on the parallel footwork. "We were nervous, because we had trouble with the twizzles in practice", Shabalin told the press. "But we pulled ourselves together and skated well."

The placements shuffled below the top three couples. After performing a strong Original Dance, Germany's Miriam Steinel/Vladimir Tsvetkov moved up to fourth, overtaking the Ukrainians, Alla Beknazarova/Juri Kocherzhenko.

Men

The men's competition concluded with an exciting Free Skating. Evan Lysacek, who sat in second after the Short Program, was up first in the final flight. The 15-year-old American opened his

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program with a double Axel and a triple lutz-triple toeloop combination. An excellent combination spin followed as well as four more triples, including his trademark triple flip-half loop-triple Salchow. Lysacek took the lead and had to wait and see what his competitors would do. China's Xiadong Ma took to the ice right after him. He nailed a triple axel-triple toeloop right out of the gate, but then he fell hard on his quadruple toeloop attempt and stepped out of the landing of his triple flip. The Chinese recovered to land five more triples but his spins were weak and his program to "Mount Olympus" lacked choreography. Ma, who stood in third after the Short, slipped to fourth. Vincent Restencourt, fifth after the Short, knew that he still had a shot at a medal. The Frenchman pulled off a triple flip-triple toeloop and a triple axel-double toeloop combination in the first half minute of his program to "Xotica". His only mistake was a double Lutz, which he repeated later on as a triple one. Overall his performance included seven triples, but his spins and steps were not on the same level as his jumps. Restencourt scored marks up to 5.8 for technical merit, while his presentation marks went down to 5.2 to 5.6. Last year's silver medallist couldn't yet be sure if this was enough to leap on the podium this time. Next up was the leader after Qualifying and Short Program, Johnny Weir (USA). The 16-year-old reeled off a triple lutz-triple toeloop combination, but then he two-footed the triple Axel (in combination with double toeloop). Weir never gave up and continued with four more solid triples, including another Axel, and a combination spin with many positions. The Judges awarded him marks ranging from 5.3 to 5.7 for the presentation of his program to Russian folk and gypsy music, while the technical marks ranged between 5.2 and 5.7. When he saw the marks, Weir knew that he had won. The last skater was Stephane Lambiel (SUI), who stood in fourth after the Short. The 15-year-old Swiss skater succumbed to the pressure, popped his Axel and fell hard on the loop dropping to fifth place overall.

Weir took the gold, Lysacek finished third in the Free Program and captured the silver while Restencourt, pulled up two spots and claimed the bronze medal. He was second in the Free Skating. The Judges were divided on the skaters. All medallists had first place ordinals. It was the first time since 1987 that two American men finished first and second. Back then, Rudy Galindo had won and Todd Eldredge was the runner up.

"I'm very excited to be first in the world for my level. I know that the performances I've given are pretty much the best I've ever have been able to do", Weir said. "I was very nervous before I skated, but I didn't really see anyone else skate, so I just had to go with what I knew I had to do."

Both Weir and Lysacek were competing for their first time at the Junior Worlds, and Lysacek originally was only an alternate.

"I'm really excited with the results of this whole week. I think that this was the best I could do", Lysacek said. "I'm glad that I was able to come here and to put out three of the best performances I've ever given. I'm glad that people were able to see the best I could skate."

Restencourt was happy with his bronze medal. "It was a very good competition for me considering that I really started to work again only one month ago", he commented. "I had a mistake in the Short for which I payed dearly. I didn't do my best in the Short, but overall I did well."

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

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2001 World Junior Figure Skating Championships Day Four

Results

Ice Dance

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	C1	C2	OD	FD
1	Natalia ROMANIUTA / Daniil BARANTSEV	RUS	1.0	1	1	1	
2	Tanith BELBIN / Benjamin AGOSTO	USA	2.0	2	2	2	
3	Elena KHALIIVINA / Maxim SHABALIN	RUS	3.0	3	3	3	
4	Miriam STEINEL / Vladimir TSVETKOV	GER	4.4	5	5	4	
5	Alla BEKNAZAROVA / Yuri KOCHERZHENKO	UKR	4.6	4	4	5	
6	Elena ROMANOVSKAYA / Alexander GRACHEV	RUS	6.0	6	6	6	
7	Natalie PECHALAT / Fabien BOURZAT	FRA	7.2	7	8	7	
8	Viktoria POLZYKINA / Alexander SHAKALOV	UKR	7.8	8	7	8	
9	Lucie KADLCAKOVA / Hynek BILEK	CZE	9.0	9	9	9	
10	Nora HOFFMANN / Attila ELEK	HUN	10.0	10	10	10	
11	Sheri MOIR / Danny MOIR	CAN	11.4	12	12	11	
12	Agata ROSLONSKA / Michal TOMASZEWSKI	POL	11.6	11	11	12	
13	Myriam TRIVIDIC / Yann ABBACK	FRA	13.0	13	13	13	
14	Lydia MANON / Michel KLUS	USA	14.4	15	15	14	
15	Kendra GOODWIN / Chris OBZANSKY	USA	14.6	14	14	15	
16	Fang YANG / Chongbo GAO	CHN	16.4	17	17	16	
17	Tara DOHERTY / Tyler MYLES	CAN	16.6	16	16	17	
18	Ilaria WEBSTER / Diego RINALDI	ITA	18.4	19	19	18	
19	Phillipa TOWLER-GREEN / Robert BURGERMAN	GBR	19.2	18	18	20	
20	Jessica HUOT / Juha VALKAMA	FIN	19.4	20	20	19	
21	Lidia LEWANDOSKI / Andrea VATURI	ITA	21.0	21	21	21	
22	Barbara HERZOG / David VINCOUR	AUT	22.0	22	22	22	
23	Marina TIMOFEYEVA / Evgeni STRIGANOV	EST	23.0	23	23	23	
24	Daniela KELLER / Fabian KELLER	SUI	24.0	24	24	24	
25	Tatiana SINIAVER / Tornike TUKVADZE	GEO	25.4	26	26	25	
26	Kamilla SZOLNOKI / Dejan ILLES	CRO	25.6	25	25	26	
27	Anna CAPPELLINI / Luca LOMBARDI	ITA	27.0	27	27	27	
28	Julia KLOCHKO / Ramil SARKULOV	UZB	28.0	28	28	28	
29	Ana GALITCH / Andrei CHICHKOV	BIH	29.0	29	29	29	

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Men

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	QB	QA	SP	FS
1	Johnny WEIR	USA	2.0		1	1	1
2	Evan LYSACEK	USA	5.4		3	2	3
3	Vincent RESTENCOURT	FRA	6.4		2	6	2
4	Xiaodong MA	CHN	7.8	1		4	5
5	Stéphane LAMBIEL	SUI	10.4		4	3	7
6	Alan STREET	GBR	11.0	2		7	6
7	Jeffrey BUTTLE	CAN	13.0		6	11	4
8	Karel ZELENKA	ITA	14.6	3		9	8
9	Cyril BRUN	FRA	17.0		8	8	9
10	Nicholas YOUNG	CAN	19.8		5	13	10
11	Alexander SHUBIN	RUS	22.2		13	5	14
12	Sergei DOBRIN	RUS	26.0	5		20	12
13	Gregor URBAS	SLO	26.2		9	16	13
14	Kazumi KISHIMOTO	JPN	26.6	9		10	17
15	Benjamin MILLER	USA	26.8	6		14	16
16	Kevin van der PERREN	BEL	27.6		10	21	11
17	Tomas VERNER	CZE	31.8	4		12	23
18	Filip STILLER	SWE	32.6	8		24	15
19	Andrei DOBROKHODOV	AZE	33.6	7		18	20
20	Florian JUST	GER	34.6		7	23	18
21	Anton KOVALEVSKY	UKR	34.8		12	15	21
22	Andrej PRIMAK	GER	36.0		11	21	19
23	Vladimir BELOMOIN	UZB	38.2	10		17	24
24	Yang AN	CHN	41.6	13		19	25
25	Stanimir TODOROV	BUL	43.6	15		26	22
26	Ari-Pekka NURMENKARI	FIN		11		25	
27	Konstantin TUPIKOV	UKR		14		27	
28	Bradley SANTER	AUS		12		29	
29	Christian HORVATH	AUT			15	28	
30	Aleksei SAKS	EST			14	30	
31	Jamal OTHMAN	SUI			16		
31	Soshi TANAKA	JPN		16			
33	Michael LUBOJANSKI	GER		17			
33	Balint MIKLOS	ROM			17		
35	Vadim AKOLZIN	ISR			18		
35	Krzysztof KOMOSA	POL		18			
37	Dmitri KASS	LAT			19		
37	Ivan KINCIK	SVK		19			

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39	Karlo POZGAJCIC	CRO		20		
39	Bertalan ZAKANY	HUN		20		
41	Tomas KATUKEVICIUS	LTU		21		
41	Manuel SEGURA	MEX		21		
43	Miguel BALLESTEROS	ESP		22		
43	Alper UCAR	TUR		22		
45	Milos MILANOVIC	YUG		23		

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