

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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2001 World Junior Figure Skating Championships **Day Six**

The 2001 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships continued in Sofia, Bulgaria with the Ladies' Free Program.

Ladies

The Ladies' competition concluded with an exciting Free Skating event.

Germany's Katharina Häcker, who sat in third after the Short Program, opened the final flight. The 14-year-old delivered a good program with four clean triples, but she fell on the triple Salchow and lacked speed and presentation skills. It was not enough to medal today and she dropped to sixth place overall. Häcker was followed by overnight leader Kristina Oblasova of Russia. The 16-year-old from Moscow pulled off a very mature performance to music by Russian musician Alexander Pakhmutov. Oblasova completed six clean triple jumps including a triple flip-half loop-triple Salchow combination. Skating with evident confidence, she also showed excellent spins and ice coverage. Her marks ranged between 5.4 to 5.6 for technical merit and between 5.5 to 5.8 for presentation.

Ann Patrice McDonough (USA), in second after the Short, was up next and knew that she had to give her very best. The 15-year-old opened her program with a triple Lutz-double toeloop combination and went on to reel off five more triples, including one more Lutz and two flips. Her only mistake came when she doubled the Salchow. McDonough's marks reached 5.7 for technical merit and 5.8 for presentation, but it was not enough to win this time. Oblasova won the Free Skating and the competition on a 7 to 2 majority verdict.

The bronze medal was still up for grabs. Finland's Susanna Pöykiö was next to skate and she seized the opportunity. The skater from Oulu sat in sixth after a faulty Short Program, but she fought harder today. Pöykiö landed four clean triples, and she only doubled the loop. She moved up to third, but she had to wait and see what Japan's Yukari Nakano and Tamara Dorofejev (HUN) would do. Nakano fell on the loop and lacked presentation, so she was not able to overtake Pöykiö, but she still managed to move up to fourth overall. The Hungarian, who stood in fourth after the Short, fell twice, dropping to fifth place.

So, Oblasova took the gold with McDonough finishing second and Pöykiö captured the bronze. All three medallists were competing for the first time at the Junior Worlds.

"I'm very proud of myself and I'm very happy for Finnish figure skating", commented Pöykiö. "After the Short, I didn't believe that I could medal anymore." It is the first time ever that a Finnish skater has won medal at the Junior Worlds and it is also the first time that a Finnish Lady won a medal at an ISU Championship – senior or junior. The last time a Finnish single skater took a medal at an ISU Championships was in 1933, when Markus Nikkanen won the bronze at the Worlds.

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Finland's most recent medal at an ISU Championships dates back to 1995, when Ice Dancers Susanna Rahkamo/Petri Kokko claimed the silver medal at the Worlds.

"I skated almost my best and the best I've done all season", commented McDonough. "I'm glad that I got the silver medal. The Salchow is not a very good triple for me, I doubled it. I decided right before I did it."

Oblasova still was overwhelmed by her victory. "I'm in sort of a shock. You don't become World Junior Champion everyday, after all", she said. "I'm happy that the people enjoyed my program. Everything happens for the first time – it's my first Junior Worlds and I became champion. It's very exciting, and I hope that it will be even more exciting at senior championships (in the future)."

The four titles at the 2001 World Junior Championships went to three different countries: China won the gold medal in Pairs, while the Men's gold went to the USA and Russia took the title in Ice Dancing as well as in Ladies. The USA was the most successful nation, winning five out of twelve medals (like in 2000). Russia got three medals while China, Finland, France and Japan each claimed one.

The 2001 World Junior Championships conclude tomorrow (Sunday) with the Exhibition Gala.

Results

Ladies

FPl.	Name	Nat.	Points	QB	QA	SP	FS
1	Kristina OBLASOVA	RUS	2.0		1	1	1
2	Ann Patrice MCDONOUGH	USA	3.6	1		2	2
3	Susanna PÖYKIÖ	FIN	8.6		2	8	3
4	Yukari NAKANO	JPN	9.0	5		5	4
5	Tamara DOROFJEV	HUN	9.8		5	3	6
6	Katharina HACKER	GER	10.6		3	4	7
7	Akiko SUZUKI	JPN	10.8	4		7	5
8	Joannie ROCHETTE	CAN	15.4	7		6	9
9	Svetlana CHERNYSHOVA	RUS	16.0	2		12	8
10	Sara WHEAT	USA	20.2	3		10	13
11	Carolina KOSTNER	ITA	20.4		9	13	9
12	Stephanie ZHANG	AUS	21.8		6	14	11
13	Dan FANG	CHN	22.0		4	9	15
14	Christiane BERGER	GER	24.2	14		11	12
15	Lucie KRAUSOVA	CZE	28.8		7	20	14
16	Svetlana PILIPENKO	UKR	31.4	8		17	18
17	Lucia STAROVICOVA	SVK	32.6	12		18	17
18	Martine ZUIDERWIJK	NED	34.0		11	16	20

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19	Hristina VASSILEVA	BUL	35.8		12	25	16
20	Taru KARVOSENOJA	FIN	36.0	9		19	21
21	Viktoria PAVUK	HUN	36.8	10		23	19
22	Roxana LUCA	ROM	37.0		15	15	22
23	Chu-Hong LEE	KOR	39.0	6		21	24
24	Kimena BROG-MEIER	SUI	39.4		8	22	23
25	Anja BRATEC	SLO			14	24	
26	Gintare VOSTRECOVAITE	LTU			13	27	
27	Sara FALOTICO	BEL		15		26	
28	Quinn WILMANS	RSA		11		29	
29	Viviane KAESER	SUI		13		28	
R	Ye Bin MOK	USA			10		
31	Rebecca GARCIA	ESP			16		
31	Anna JURKIEWICZ	POL		16			
33	Diana CHEN	TPE			17		
33	Jennifer HOLMES	GBR		17			
35	Johanna GÖTESSON	SWE		18			
35	Kristina MICHAILOVA	BLR			18		
37	Helena GARCIA	MEX		19			
37	Kaori POON	HKG			19		
39	Giovanna ALMEIDA LETO	POR			20		
39	Ines PAVLEKOVIC	CRO		20			
41	Papatya DOKMECI	TUR			21		
41	Kathrin FREUDELSPERGER	AUT		21			
43	Ksenia JASTSENJSKI	YUG		22			

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