

# 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 World Figure Skating Championships, Vancouver Canada** **Day Four**

The 2001 World Figure Skating Championships continued in Vancouver, Canada, with the Original Dance and the conclusion of the Men's competition.

### **Dance**

After the second section of the Dance competition, the 2000 silver medallists Barbara Fusar-Poli (ITA) hold first place ahead of defending champions Marina Anissina & Gwendal Peizerat (FRA). Irina Lobacheva & Ilia Averbukh (RUS), fourth for the past three seasons, are third, ahead of four time world bronze medallists Shae-Lynn Bourne & Victor Kraatz (CAN). Again it was a close fought competition between the top couples.

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

The Italians, tied with the French after the Compulsory Dances, skated in the penultimate group. Their fast and expressive Quickstep and Foxtrot, set to an Irving Berlin medley, featured a good dance spin and step sequences. It earned 5.7s and 5.8s for composition and three 5.9s and six 5.8s for presentation.

Next onto the ice were home crowd favourites Bourne & Kraatz. Also skating a Quickstep/Foxtrot routine, their program included their trademark hydroblade moves, good speed and flow but they had a small stutter in their straight line footwork. Their composition marks ranged from 5.4 - 5.7 and their presentation marks from 5.6 to 5.8.

This was the first time that Anissina & Peizerat performed their revamped Original Dance in competition. After finishing second at the European Championships, they decided to redo the program with new choreography, music and costumes. The couple kept a Quickstep/Foxtrot combination and the dance featured fast steps and twizzles, deep edges, all performed in classical ballroom style. Their marks included four 5.9s and four 5.8s for presentation and ranged from 5.6-5.8 for composition.

Lobacheva & Averbukh, the final couple to skate, opted for the same rhythms and gave a characteristically charismatic, fast and expressive performance. They were rewarded with marks ranging from 5.4 - 5.7 for composition and three 5.8s for presentation. The judges were divided. Fusar-Poli & Margaglio beat Anissina & Peizerat by a majority verdict of six judges to three. Lobacheva & Averbukh took third over Bourne & Kraatz by the same margin. Last year's bronze medallists Margarita Drobiazko & Povilas Vanagas (LTU), finished fifth.

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"We did a good job today," said Margaglio. "We had a wonderful season so far and it was difficult to be better today."

"This is the best competition for us in a long time," said Peizerat. "We had a brand new OD and it was very polished already."

Averbukh added: "The competition isn't over yet and there will be a big battle of the top five couples tomorrow."

## **Men**

The Men's competition concluded with a night of high drama and excitement. Alexei Yagudin (RUS), champion for the last three years, was the first of the top group to skate. Lying in third place after the first two rounds of the competition, he knew that even winning the Free would not be enough to retain his title. Still battling with his foot injury, he was determined to give his all. He opened with a quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop combination, just managing to hang onto the landing and then pulled out a soaring triple lutz. He couldn't quite hold the landing on his first triple axel and put a hand down on his triple flip but performed his Gladiator program with speed, power and passion - lifted by the capacity crowd. His marks ranged from 5.6 to 5.7 for technical merit and one 5.9 and eight 5.8s for presentation.

Reigning European champion and winner of the Grand Prix Final, Evgeni Plushenko (RUS), in first place after Qualifying and the Short, took the ice knowing that he could finish second in the Free and still win gold. But there was no question of second place for the 18-year-old. He opened his program with his unique quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop/double loop combination and moments later landed a huge triple axel. With the crowd cheering him on, Plushenko 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 upbeat movie soundtrack medley. He played with the crowd as he completed his program, which included another four triples, a Biellmann spiral and spin combination. His marks included six 5.9s for technical merit and another eight 5.9s for presentation.

Next to skate was Todd Eldredge (USA), in second place going in to the Free. The 29-year-old was competing in his first World Championships since 1998, after taking two years off Championship competition. The 1996 world champion turned his planned opening quadruple toeloop into a triple but thereafter was flawless, reeling off seven more triples in his program to the soundtrack from 1492 Conquest of Paradise. His spins were fast and perfectly centred and his elements linked with fast steps and spirals. The crowd were on their feet again to roar their appreciation as he took his bow. So Plushenko won the Free and his first world title with unanimous first places from all nine judges. Yagudin placed second in the Free skating by a narrow majority of five judges to four and moved up from third to take the silver medal. Eldredge won the bronze with teammate Timothy Goebel in fourth.

"I'm so happy, it's unbelievable," said Plushenko. "It has been my dream to become world champion since I was four years old. Now this dream has come true. My next dream is to become Olympic champion."

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"Before the skate, I knew there was no way for me to win", said Yagudin. "The crowd was really good to me and I didn't want to disappoint them. It' been a really hard season and I think I will be doing a lot of work going into the new season. I would like to skate until Olympics 2006 so I have to change something in my work just to survive until the year 2006!"

"I'm not at all disappointed," said Eldredge. "This is the best I have skated in the last several years. The warm-up did not go great and it was a last minute decision for the triple."

A total of nine clean quadruple jumps were landed in the Men's Free program. These were: Evgeni Plushenko (RUS), quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop/double loop; Alexei Yagudin (RUS), quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop; Timothy Goebel (USA), quadruple salchow/triple toeloop and quadruple salchow; Chengjiang Li (CHN), quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop; Emanuel Sandhu (CAN), quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop; Min Zhang (CHN), quadruple toeloop and Yamato Tamura (JPN), quadruple toeloop/triple toeloop and quadruple toeloop.

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

## Results

### Ice Dance

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	1B	2B	1A	2A	OD	FD
1	<a href="#">Barbara FUSAR POLI / Maurizio MARGAGLIO</a>	ITA	1.0	1	1			1	
2	<a href="#">Marina ANISSINA / Gwendal PEIZERAT</a>	FRA	1.6			1	1	2	
3	<a href="#">Irina LOBACHEVA / Ilia AVERBUKH</a>	RUS	2.8	3	2			3	
4	<a href="#">Shae-Lynn BOURNE / Victor KRAATZ</a>	CAN	3.4	2	3			4	
5	<a href="#">Margarita DROBIAZKO / Povilas VANAGAS</a>	LTU	3.8			2	2	5	
6	<a href="#">Galit CHAIT / Sergei SAKHNOVSKI</a>	ISR	4.8			3	3	6	
7	<a href="#">Kati WINKLER / Rene LOHSE</a>	GER	5.8	4	4			7	
8	<a href="#">Elena GRUSHINA / Ruslan GONCHAROV</a>	UKR	6.4			4	4	8	
9	<a href="#">Naomi LANG / Peter TCHERNYSHEV</a>	USA	7.4	5	5			9	
10	<a href="#">Albena DENKOVA / Maxim STAVIYSKI</a>	BUL	8.0			5	5	10	
11	<a href="#">Marie-France DUBREUIL / Patrice LAUZON</a>	CAN	9.0	6	6			11	
12	<a href="#">Tatiana NAVKA / Roman KOSTOMAROV</a>	RUS	9.8			7	6	12	
13	<a href="#">Isabelle DELOBEL / Olivier SCHOENFELDER</a>	FRA	11.0			8	8	13	
14	<a href="#">Sylwia NOWAK / Sebastian KOLASINSKI</a>	POL	11.0			6	7	14	
15	<a href="#">Eliane HUGENTOBLER / Daniel HUGENTOBLER</a>	SUI	11.8	7	7			15	
16	<a href="#">Marika HUMPHREYS / Vitali BARANOV</a>	GBR	13.2			9	9	16	
17	<a href="#">Tanith BELBIN / Benjamin AGOSTO</a>	USA	13.6	8	9			17	
18	<a href="#">Magali SAURI / Michail STIFUNIN</a>	FRA	14.2	9	8			18	
19	<a href="#">Agata BLAZOWSKA / Marcin KOZUBEK</a>	POL	15.6			11	10	19	
20	<a href="#">Kristin FRASER / Igor LUKANIN</a>	AZE	16.0	10	10			20	
21	<a href="#">Gloria AGOGLIATI / Luciano MILO</a>	ITA	16.8			10	11	21	

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22	<a href="#">Nakako TSUZUKI / Rinat FARKHOUTDINOV</a>	JPN	18.0			12	12	22	
23	<a href="#">Zita GEBORA / Andras VISONTAI</a>	HUN	19.0			13	13	23	
24	<a href="#">Katarina KOVALOVA / David SZURMAN</a>	CZE	19.0	12	11			24	
25	<a href="#">Natalia GUDINA / Alexei BELETSKI</a>	ISR		11	13			25	
26	<a href="#">Valentina ANSELMi / Fabrizio PEDRAZZINI</a>	ITA		14	14			26	
27	<a href="#">Stephanie RAUER / Thomas RAUER</a>	GER		16	12			27	
28	<a href="#">Weina ZHANG / Xianming CAO</a>	CHN		13	15			28	
29	<a href="#">Anna MOSENKOVA / Sergei SYCHOV</a>	EST				14	15	29	
30	<a href="#">Alissa de CARBONNEL / Alexander MALKOV</a>	BLR				15	14	30	
31	<a href="#">Tae-Hwa YANG / Chuen-Gun LEE</a>	KOR		15	16				
32	<a href="#">Portia DUVAL-RIGBY / Francis RIGBY</a>	AUS				17	16		
33	<a href="#">Kamilla SZOLNOKI / Dejan ILLES</a>	CRO				16	17		
34	<a href="#">Zuzana DURKOVSKA / Marian MESAROS</a>	SVK		17	17				
35	<a href="#">Ana GALITCH / Andrei SHISHKOV</a>	BIH		18	18				

## Men

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	QB	QA	SP	FS
1	<a href="#">Evgeni PLUSHENKO</a>	RUS	2.0		1	1	1
2	<a href="#">Alexei YAGUDIN</a>	RUS	5.2		5	2	2
3	<a href="#">Todd ELDREDGE</a>	USA	5.6		2	3	3
4	<a href="#">Timothy GOEBEL</a>	USA	7.6		3	4	4
5	<a href="#">Takeshi HONDA</a>	JPN	12.4	1		10	6
6	<a href="#">Yunfei LI</a>	CHN	12.4		6	5	7
7	<a href="#">Chengjiang LI</a>	CHN	14.8	8		6	8
8	<a href="#">Alexander ABT</a>	RUS	14.8		4	7	9
9	<a href="#">Emanuel SANDHU</a>	CAN	16.2	4		16	5
10	<a href="#">Elvis STOJKO</a>	CAN	18.4	2		11	11
11	<a href="#">Stanick JEANNETTE</a>	FRA	18.6	3		9	12
12	<a href="#">Ivan DINEV</a>	BUL	20.0		7	12	10
13	<a href="#">Sergei RYLOV</a>	AZE	24.8	7		15	13
14	<a href="#">Anthony LIU</a>	AUS	24.8	10		8	16
15	<a href="#">Min ZHANG</a>	CHN	27.6	6		17	15
16	<a href="#">Patrick MEIER</a>	SUI	29.0		8	13	18
17	<a href="#">Yamato TAMURA</a>	JPN	30.4	5		24	14
18	<a href="#">Stefan LINDEMANN</a>	GER	32.0	9		14	20
19	<a href="#">Vincent RESTENCOURT</a>	FRA	33.0		13	18	17
20	<a href="#">Roman SKORNIKOV</a>	UZB	35.6	13		19	19
21	<a href="#">Gheorghe CHIPER</a>	ROM	38.6		11	22	21
22	<a href="#">Vitali DANILCHENKO</a>	UKR	38.6		9	20	23
23	<a href="#">Dmitri DMITRENKO</a>	UKR	40.6		10	21	24

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24	<a href="#">Markus LEMINEN</a>	FIN	41.4	14		23	22
25	<a href="#">Vakhtang MURVANIDZE</a>	GEO		11		26	
26	<a href="#">Neil WILSON</a>	GBR			14	25	
27	<a href="#">Angelo DOLFINI</a>	ITA			12	28	
28	<a href="#">Robert KAZIMIR</a>	SVK		15		27	
29	<a href="#">Sergei DAVYDOV</a>	BLR		12		29	
30	<a href="#">Gregor URBAS</a>	SLO			15	30	
31	<a href="#">Kristoffer BERNTSSON</a>	SWE		16			
31	<a href="#">Alexei KOZLOV</a>	EST			16		
33	<a href="#">Michael SHMERKIN</a>	ISR		17			
33	<a href="#">Kevin van der PERREN</a>	BEL			17		
35	<a href="#">Konstantin KOSTIN</a>	LAT			18		
35	<a href="#">Zoltan TOTH</a>	HUN		18			
37	<a href="#">Gareth ECHARDT</a>	RSA		19			
37	<a href="#">Juri LITVINOV</a>	KAZ			19		
39	<a href="#">Yon GARCIA</a>	ESP			20		
39	<a href="#">Mauricio MEDELLIN</a>	MEX		20			
41	<a href="#">Ricky COCKERILL</a>	NZL			21		
41	<a href="#">Milos MILANOVIC</a>	YUG		21			
43	<a href="#">Panagiotis MARKOUIZOS</a>	ISU			22		
R	<a href="#">Kyu-Hyun LEE</a>	KOR					

**For further information contact:**

ISU Press Office, Aline Bussat/ Penny Dain, on +1 (604) 899 53 55