

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS: CHEMIN DE PRIMEROSE 2 - CH 1007 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
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2001 World Figure Skating Championships, Vancouver Canada **Day Six**

The 2001 World Figure Skating Championships concluded in Vancouver, Canada, with the Ladies Free Program.

Ladies

The Ladies event concluded with an exciting battle for the podium, featuring high level skating.

First of the top group to take the ice was Sarah Hughes (USA), in fourth after the first two sections of competition. Skating to Don Quixote, Hughes opened her program with a double Axel followed by a triple Salchow/ triple loop combination. Her well choreographed and expressive program also included fluid spirals, well centered spins and five more triples. The Judges awarded Hughes with marks up to 5.8 for both technical merit and presentation.

Angela Nikodinov (USA), in third after the Short, was next and although she produced a fine and graceful performance set to Sleeping Beauty, she fell on a triple Salchow and two-footed the landing of the triple toeloop. The Judges awarded Nikidinov with marks ranging from 5.3 to 5.5 for technical merit and 5.4 to 5.8 for presentation, placing her behind her teammate Hughes.

The turn of defending champion Michelle Kwan (USA), in second place going into the Free, came next. She began her program, set to Song of the Black Swan by H. Villa Lobos, with a beautiful triple loop and a triple toeloop/triple toeloop combination immediately followed. Kwan continued to flow through the elements of her program, with speed and grace, including a triple lutz/ double toeloop combination, well centered spins, a double Axel and three more solid triples. As she finished her performance with a final flying spin, the audience was already on its feet to give her a standing ovation. The Judges awarded Kwan six 5.8s for technical merit and five 5.9s and four 5.8s for presentation.

Next to skate was European champion and Grand Prix winner Irina Slutskaya (RUS), in first place after the Short. Knowing she had to outdo Kwan, Slutskaya produced a fine performance, reeling off a triple Salchow/triple loop/double toeloop combination at the opening of her Don Quixote program, becoming the first Lady to ever do so at an ISU Championship. The Russian dazzled the audience with her upbeat choreography and went on to include a triple lutz/triple loop/double toeloop combination, but she stumbled on the landing of the loop. Slutskaya's program also included a triple flip and a double Axel and she finished with her trademark double Biellmann combination spin. She was rewarded with the highest technical merit marks of the night – including two 5.9s and five 5.8s – but her presentation marks ranged from 5.7 to one 5.9. Kwan had beaten Slutskaya by a majority verdict of seven judges to two.

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The last skater of the 2001 World Championships was 1999 champion Maria Butyrskaya (RUS), fifth after the Short Program. She knew she had a chance to medal and fought all the way through her program, landing six clean triples. Her marks ranged up to 5.7 for technical merit and included two 5.9s for presentation.

So Kwan won the Free program and took her fourth world title, becoming the first Lady to retain her title since Kristi Yamaguchi (USA) in 1991/92. Slutskaya won her third world silver medal. Fifteen year old Hughes placed fourth and moved up to take the bronze medal. Butyrskaya finished fourth, the first time she has not been on the podium since 1997.

“I felt really confident, really solid. I had to nail everything,” said Kwan. “I’ve had a roller coaster year. To end like this is just truly amazing. It’s so hard to sit there and wait, wait, wait until the final results.”

Slutskaya said: “I’m very happy with my skating. I did two triple-triple combinations which I have never done in one program this season so far. It was my best Free program this year. What happened, happened. It’s sport.”

“Today was so special for me,” said Hughes. “I’m really happy that I have this medal and I worked really hard for it. It’s been a dream this whole season. For next season, I’d love to make the Olympic team.”

Results

Ladies

FPL.	Name	Nat.	Points	QB	QA	SP	FS
1	Michelle KWAN	USA	2.6		1	2	1
2	Irina SLUTSKAYA	RUS	3.0	1		1	2
3	Sarah HUGHES	USA	7.2		2	4	4
4	Maria BUTYRSKAYA	RUS	7.6		4	5	3
5	Angela NIKODINOV	USA	8.0		3	3	5
6	Viktoria VOLCHKOVA	RUS	10.4	2		6	6
7	Fumie SUGURI	JPN	13.2		5	7	7
8	Elena LIASHENKO	UKR	15.4	5		9	8
9	Vanessa GUSMEROLI	FRA	16.0	3		8	10
10	Silvia FONTANA	ITA	16.6	4		10	9
11	Elina KETTUNEN	FIN	21.0		7	12	11
12	Sarah MEIER	SUI	22.6	10		11	12
13	Tatiana MALININA	UZB	23.8		6	14	13
14	Mikkeline KIERKGAARD	DEN	27.4		8	17	14
15	Jennifer ROBINSON	CAN	27.4	7		16	15

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16	Susanne STADLMÜLLER	GER	28.2		11	13	16
17	Laetitia HUBERT	FRA	30.8	6		19	17
18	Julia SEBESTYEN	HUN	32.4		9	18	18
19	Tamara DOROFJEV	HUN	34.8	8		21	19
20	Julia SOLDATOVA	BLR	35.0		10	15	22
21	Annie BELLEMARE	CAN	37.2	13		20	20
22	Karen VENHUIZEN	NED	40.4	14		23	21
23	Bit-Na PARK	KOR	41.0	9		24	23
24	Zuzana BABIAKOVA	SVK	41.6	11		22	24
25	Idora HEGEL	CRO		12		25	
26	Hristina VASSILEVA	BUL			12	27	
27	Roxana LUCA	ROM			14	26	
28	Siyin SUN	CHN		15		28	
29	Carina CHEN	TPE			13	30	
30	Marta ANDRADE	ESP			15	29	
31	Zoe JONES	GBR		16			
31	Galina MANIACHENKO	UKR			16		
33	Natalie HOSTE	BEL		17			
33	Lenka SENIGLOVA	CZE			17		
35	Anna WENZEL	AUT			18		
35	Sabina WOJTALA	POL		18			
37	Georgina PAPAVALOPOULOU	ISU			19		
37	Stephanie ZHANG	AUS		19			
39	Shirene HUMAN	RSA			20		
39	Marina KHALTURINA	KAZ		20			
41	Dirke O'Brien BAKER	NZL			21		
41	Olga VASSILJEVA	EST		21			
43	Rocio SALAS VISUET	MEX			22		
43	Julia VOROBIEVA	AZE		22			
45	Christine LEE	HKG			23		
45	Darya ZURAVICKY	ISR		23			
47	Ksenia JASTSENJSKI	YUG		24			

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