

November 5, 2021

Turin, ITA

ISU Grand Prix Grand Premio d'Italia

Day One

[Boyang Jin](#) (CHN), [Loena Hendrickx](#) (BEL), Pair Skaters [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN) and Ice Dancers [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA) are in the lead as the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Gran Premio d'Italia](#) kicked off in Turin (ITA).

Hendrickx (BEL) celebrates birthday with first place in Women's Short Program

[Loena Hendrickx](#) of Belgium celebrated her 22nd birthday in style by winning the Women's Short Program. Newcomer [Maiia Khromykh](#) of Russia came second ahead of her teammate, 2021 ISU World Champion [Anna Shcherbakova](#).

Skating to "Caruso", Hendrickx completed a triple Lutz-triple toe, triple flip and double Axel as well as level-four spins and footwork to set a new personal best score of 73.52 points.

"It felt strange, a bit more pressure than normally, I wanted to skate clean and enjoy my day. I am very surprised with the result," the Belgian Champion said. "I knew I was ready for the short program. I felt confident and I couldn't have made myself a better present for my birthday," she added.

Khromykh produced a double Axel, triple Lutz and triple flip-triple toe in her program to "I'll Take Care of You". The ISU World Junior competitor earned 72.04 points.

"I don't really have any emotions now, it was all over so fast," the ISU World Junior Championships competitor noted. "I am not so happy with my step sequence, which was only a level three. I would rate my performance a four or 3.5 out of five," she continued.

Shcherbakova opened her program to "The Songs of Distant Earth", by Kirill Richter, with a double Axel and triple flip, but then reduced her combination to a triple Lutz-double toe. She earned 71.73 points.

"I am not satisfied, I made a big mistake in the jump (combination)," the 17-year-old commented. "I didn't do such mistakes in my practices, all was fine, I think it was not technical, it was a problem with my head. I am nervous every time, but this time I was thinking too much and when you do a combo with a triple loop you don't have time to think."

Two-time World medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) (JPN) is not far behind in fourth place at 70.85 points followed by [Mai Mihara](#) (JPN) on 70.46 points and [Eunsoo Lim](#) (KOR) at 67.03 points.

Papadakis/Cizeron find their groove and race to the top in Rhythm Dance

France's four-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) top the Rhythm Dance. 2021 World silver medalists [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) placed second and [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) of Russia are sitting in third.

Papadakis/Cizeron put out an excellent performance of their Waacking street-style dance moves to "Made to Love" and "U Move, I Move" by John Legend, collecting a level four for the twizzles and the curve lift. The Blues Pattern garnered a level three while the midline step sequence was a level two. The three-time World Champions set a season's best with 87.45 points.

"We changed the second music of the program and the choreography a bit as well. We worked with our choreographer to choreograph something new," Papadakis said. "I think it was very clean

and we had a lot of fun working on that, it was a big improvement. We had a very good time performing.”

Hubbell/Donohue’s dance to “Nasty”, “Rope Burn” and “Rhythm Nation” by Janet Jackson was highlighted by a stationary lift, fast twizzles and smooth footwork. The 2021 World silver medalists got a level four for the lift and the twizzles while the Midnight Blues and Pattern Dance step sequence merited a level three. The U.S Champions netted 84.79 points, a season’s best.

“After our first Grand Prix we went home and we made some improvements,” Hubbell told the press. “Mainly we wanted to focus on improvements on tomorrow’s free, there are no changes in the short dance, we just wanted to build on how we performed at Skate America,” he said. “We edged our Skate America score a little bit, which is always the goal and we are excited to show some changes and little tweaks in our free dance.”

Dancing to Backstreet Boys, Stepanova/Bukin earned a level four for the straight line lift and the twizzles to score 81.47 points.

“It is indeed our first competition (this season) and think we can say now we were not confident enough,” Stepanova shared. “We would have loved to compete somewhere before, but it is what it is so we did our best. We are looking forward to perform our beloved free dance - it’s “Romeo and Juliet”, she added.

[Caroline Green/Michael Parsons](#) (USA) currently rank fourth at 75.60 points. [Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu](#) (CHN) finished fifth (73.28 points) while [Evgenia Lopareva/Geoffry Brissaud](#) (FRA) came sixth (67.31points).

Sui/Han (CHN) storm to first place in Pairs Short Program

Two-time ISU World Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) and [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) made it one-two for China in the Pairs Short Program. Italians [Nicola Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) came third in the first segment of the event.

Sui/Han delivered a crisp Flamenco-themed program to “Nyah”, nailing a side by side triple toeloop, triple twist and throw triple flip. The 2018 Olympic silver medalists collected a level four for the twist, lift, side by side spin, footwork and death spiral to achieve a season’s best score of 80.07 points.

“After our Grand Prix in Canada last week, we feel a bit tired, but we are very excited to compete here in Italy and to see a lot of audience,” Han said. “We came to Italy (before the Grand Prix) not with a specific trainings goal, but in order to prepare for our two Grand Prix events in Canada and in Italy.”

Peng/Jin’s performance to “Piano & I: Moonlight Sonata” and “No One” by Alicia Keys featured a triple twist, side by side triple toeloop and throw triple loop. The 2020 ISU Four Continents silver medalists earned a level four for all elements except for the step sequence that was rated a level three. The team picked up 76.71 points.

“We felt good today about our performance and we focused on each element and on all the details. We feel that we made improvements since our last competition Asian Open Trophy,” Jin noted.

Skating to “Let It Be”, Della Monica/Guarise both fell on their side by side triple Salchow, but recovered to land a triple twist and throw triple loop. The multiple Italian Champions scored 65.12 points.

“We had a big mistake at the beginning, but the rest of the program was good. For sure we would preferred to skate a clean Short Program, but we are satisfied,” Della Monica commented. “We have a good feeling about our practice sessions. It is amazing to skate in front of an audience,” Guarise added.

2020 ISU World Junior bronze medalists [Iuliia Artemeva/ Mikhail Nazarychev](#) (RUS) placed fourth at 61.90 points followed by [Rebecca Ghilardi/Filippo Ambrosini](#) (ITA) on 60.89 points.

Boyang Jin (CHN) jumps to lead in Men's Short Program

Two-time ISU World bronze medalist [Boyang Jin](#) of China jumped to the lead in the Men's Short Program. Italy's [Daniel Grassl](#) finished second, edging [Junhwan Cha](#) of Korea.

Jin hit a quad Lutz-triple toe, quad toe and triple Axel in his routine to "Night Fight" from "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" to net 97.89 points.

"In my last competition my condition was not very good but here I improved my condition, also with the help of my coaches," the Chinese skater said.

"They helped me to get into the competition in a more relaxed mood. They told me "don't be afraid of failures", and so I felt no pressure here."

Grassl's performance to "Nureyev" from the "White Crow" soundtrack featured a quad Lutz, triple Lutz-triple toe and triple Axel. The Italian improved his personal best by ten points with his score of 95.67 points.

"I was really excited for today, it was in Torino, I want to thank the (Italian) Federation for hosting the Grand Prix," said Grassl.

"I'm so happy I skated for the people and I felt them with me, I felt very positive today. I wanted a strong performance and I'm happy about it."

Skating to "Fate of the Clockmaker" and "Cloak and Dagger", Korean skater, Cha, landed a quad Salchow, triple Lutz-triple loop and triple Axel to score 95.56 points.

"I'm really happy about my performance today. I had some mistakes at the Asian Open, but I worked on my programs and made the components better and coming out today I'm satisfied with my program," the Korean Champion commented.

2018 World bronze medalist [Mikhail Kolyada](#) (RUS) fell on his quad toeloop, but is not far behind on 92.30 points. [Deniss Vasiljevs](#) (LAT) follows in fifth (85.09 points) while [Kazuki Tomono](#) (JPN) rounds up the top six at 83.91 points. 2021 World silver medalist [Yuma Kagiya](#) (JPN) is ranked seventh after making errors on two jumps (80.53).

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Gran Premio d'Italia continues Saturday with the Women's and Pairs Free Skating, Free Dance and Men's Free Skating.

Viewers are able to watch the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series](#) either via their national broadcaster / channel or via the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) for countries where there is no broadcaster agreement in place. For more information please see [here](#).

The [General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series is available at the ISU website. The individual announcements are published under the respective events. For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit [here](#). The ISU has an anti-Covid protocol in place to keep all participants of the events as safe as possible.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events: [Guaranteed Rate Skate America](#) in Las Vegas (USA) October 22-24, [Skate Canada International](#) in Vancouver (CAN) October 29-31, [Gran Premio d'Italia](#) in Turin (ITA) November 5-7, [NHK Trophy](#) in Tokyo (JPN) November 12-14, [Internationaux de France](#) in Grenoble (FRA) November 19-21 and [Rostelecom](#)

[Cup](#) in Sochi (RUS) November 26-28. The [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final](#) will take place in Osaka (JPN) December 9-12.

About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six invitational international senior events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The top six of the past World Championships are seeded. Competitors collect points in their events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.