

December 10, 2021

Calgary, Canada

Perfect day for Dubreuil (CAN), Lollobrigida (ITA) takes first World Cup gold in classical distance

[Laurent Dubreuil](#) (CAN) came into the fourth World Cup as 500m leader but he saved the best for the home ice in Calgary. With 33.80 seconds the world champion skated under 34 seconds for the first time in his career, winning by a 0.09 margin. [Nils van der Poel](#) (SWE) extended his unbeaten streak in the long distance World Cup to four.

In the Women's competition [Francesca Lollobrigida](#) (ITA) won her first World Cup gold in a classical distance after beating home skater [Isabelle Weidemann](#) (CAN) in an exciting head-to-head. Earlier on Friday [Olga Fatkulina](#) (RUS) kicked off the fourth World Cup weekend of the season with a personal best and her first individual World Cup gold since November 2019.

Perfect day for Dubreuil

When Dubreuil got to the start of his 500m race three men had already broken the 34-second barrier on the fast Calgary ice on Friday.

[Tingyu Gao](#) (CHN) had clocked 33.87s, [Yuma Murakami](#) (JPN) 33.89s and [Viktor Mushtakov](#) (RUS) 33.96s.

Dubreuil finished in 33.77s, pushing Mushtakov off the podium and leaving Gao and Murakami to silver and bronze. The 29-year-old from Quebec pieced everything together in a near-perfect performance.

"I was happy with the races in Europe and last week," he said.

"But I was always saying 'there's a couple of mistakes here and there'. Today there weren't as many mistakes.

"Obviously there's always stuff that you think you can do better but it's my fastest start ever by five hundredths and the lap was good as well. So it was really as close to perfect as I can do right now.

"The last time I felt this good and maybe the only time (so far) was last year at the World Championships probably. Once in a while you have a race like that, you show up and you feel good physically and you execute almost perfectly. Today was one of those days."

Dubreuil retained the lead in the 500m World Cup ranking with [Tatsuya Shinhama](#) and [Wataru Morishige](#) (JPN) in second and third.

Japanese depth

Winning bronze on Friday, Murakami showed the depth of Japanese sprinting. After Shinhama, Morishige and [Yamato Matsui](#), he became the fourth Japanese skater on the 500m podium this season.

Murakami explained why he had a slower start to the season than his compatriots.

"I suffered a shoulder injury after a crash in pre-season training in Inzell (Germany) in November. It hampered me in the previous World Cups but now I'm fully recovered."

Searching for six minutes in another universe

After last week's 5000m world record (6:01.56) in Salt Lake City, Nils van der Poel came to Calgary with high expectations.

"I wanted to try to go under six (minutes)," he said. "That was the reason we went (to Calgary) and gave it a shot and I realized quite soon that that wasn't the shape of the day."

"It did not really play out the way I thought it would."

Van der Poel had altered his season planning after the first two World Cups in Poland and Norway.

"Before (the season), we talked about doing two competitions only. If we won those, we wouldn't go to North America and we decided to go anyway. Since the gap was so big, we wanted to grasp for more and try to challenge the world record."

With a time of six minutes and 4.29 seconds, Van der Poel came a little less than three seconds short of the world record he set in Salt Lake City last week.

[Davide Ghiotto](#) (ITA) took silver in 6:09.34. Skating in the final pair, the Italian knew exactly what he had to do.

"First place was impossible because Van der Poel is in another universe but I knew the time of [Ted-Jan Bloemen](#) (CAN) and I tried to stay under," Ghiotto explained.

Bloemen finds back his mojo

Bloemen had set 6:09.52 in the penultimate pairing. He was almost five seconds faster than last week in Salt Lake City but he was not where he wanted to be just yet.

"Last week was sh*t and today was sh*t and then followed up by some good laps. So I'm on the way back."

"Don't get me wrong, I'm happy to perform like this today after last week's race but I know I'm much better than this."

"Earlier this year, when the conditions weren't as fast as now, I already did a 6.06. So I'm missing something a little bit right now but I think in the end of the race there, I found something back. I was battling, battling, hurting, hurting and then finally I got through and I found my mojo again."

Van der Poel and Bloemen stayed in first and second place in the World Cup ranking with Ghiotto climbing up to third place in absence of [Jorrit Bergsma](#), and [Patrick Roest](#) (NED).

Lollobrigida and Weidemann push each other to new level

With [Irene Schouten](#) (NED) absent, the 3000m field was wide open. The endurance machine, who had won the first two 3000m races as well as the 5000m in Stavanger, chose not to travel to Calgary in order to prepare for the Dutch Olympic trials in December.

Lollobrigida took full advantage, winning her first World Cup gold in the 3000m having won multiple Mass Start medals over the past seven years.

“I had a good pair, but for the first time in my life I just skated by myself. Normally I follow someone, just keep there and chase,” Lollobrigida explained.

Weidemann followed suit and thought she could reel her in towards the end.

“I thought that I had her (with) two laps to go and she just came back so hard,” Weidemann said.

Lollobrigida countered the attack to finish in a personal best of three minutes and 54.44 seconds.

“(Going into) the last corner, my coach (Maurizio) Marchetto (ITA) said ‘you can win’. So I was like, ‘okay, I can win’,” she laughed.

Weidemann also set a personal best, taking silver in 3:55.37. Battling each other in a strong pair had raised both skaters’ level.

“Absolutely,” Weidemann said. “We both got personal bests today and I think the ice is a little bit slower here than it was in Salt Lake. So yeah, I think we push each other quite well.

“I like to race alone though I’m not going to lie, having my own lane and working on my own things, but it’s always fun to race her.”

Two laps too long for Wiklund

In the pair before Lollobrigida and Weidemann, Ragne Wiklund started on track-record pace in the sixth pair versus Martina Sáblíková.

“When I saw Ragne go so fast, I just said to myself ‘ok, you should stay at your own level and try to do your best’, and then I had little power in the end,” Sáblíková said.

Wiklund was not able to keep up her sub-31 lap-times towards the end while Sáblíková managed to maintain her pace.

The 34-year old Czech veteran eventually managed to pip Wiklund to the line, finishing in 3:55.52, versus 3:55.69 for Wiklund, who came in fourth.

Sáblíková was happy with her first World Cup podium this season.

“It’s been strange (the season until now),” she said. “I had health problems in the last month. Now, it was better than in Stavanger and Tomaszów (Mazowiecki, Poland) and last week in Salt Lake City.

“Today was the best 3000m this season for me, 3:55 is a great time for me and I’m getting faster and faster so I’m happy with it.”

Due to Schouten’s absence, Weidemann took the lead in the long distance World Cup, with Wiklund following in second and Schouten in third.

Fast opener and personal best for Fatkulina

[Olga Fatkulina](#) (RUS) skated a personal best of 36.72s to win the Women’s 500m. The key to victory had been the 10.4 opener, which she had never skated before.

“After the corner (entering the backstretch) my coach told me ‘10.4s’. I was happy and it gave me a boost carrying on towards the finish,” Fatkulina said.

Fatkulina was happy to win but downplayed the importance.

“In an Olympic season a World Cup win doesn’t matter,” she said.

[Nao Kodaira](#) (JPN) took silver in 36.81s. The reigning Olympic Champion had been struggling with her opener the whole season and Friday’s race was no different.

“My opener was not good,” Kodaira commented. “I was too prudent, not eager enough in the first 200m but the last 300m was ok.”

[Angelina Golikova](#) (RUS) claimed bronze in 36.82 and retained second place in the World Cup ranking behind [Erin Jackson](#) (USA). The winner of the first three World Cup races this season, came in fifth in 37.16s.

500m Women
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 500m Women](#)

1000m Women
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1000m Women](#)

1500m Women
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1500m Women](#)

3000m Women
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 3000m Women](#)

Mass Start Women
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Mass Start Women](#)

Team Pursuit Women

ISU World Cup Team Pursuit Women [Standings Team Pursuit Women](#)

Team Sprint Women

ISU World Cup Team Sprint Women [Standings Team Sprint Women](#)

500m Men

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1000m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1000m Men](#)

1500m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1500m Men](#)

5000m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 5000m Men](#)

Mass Start Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Mass Start Men](#)

Team Pursuit Men

ISU World Cup Team Pursuit Women [Standings Team Pursuit Men](#)

Team Sprint Men

ISU World Cup Team Sprint Women [Standings Team Sprint Men](#)

The event entry quotas for the individual distances will be determined by the [Special Olympic Qualification Classification \(SOQC\)](#) based on results from the different ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions and the full details are available in [ISU Communication 2405](#).

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series please visit: isu.org/speed-skating. Results are [here](#) and you can follow the discussion on social media by using #SpeedSkating.

Where to Watch

Viewers will be able to watch either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#). You will find the full list in the [Where to Watch news here](#).

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ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series 2021/22:

[Tomaszów Mazowiecki \(POL\) – Nov 12 – 14, 2021](#)

[Stavanger \(NOR\) - Nov 19 - Nov 21, 2021](#)

[Salt Lake City \(USA\) - Dec 03 - Dec 05, 2021](#)

[Calgary \(CAN\) – Dec 10 - Dec 12, 2021](#)

[Final – Heerenveen \(NED\) – Mar 12 - Mar 13, 2022](#)

About ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating is a Series of international Speed Skating competitions which takes place annually. The Series started in 1984 and usually consists of six or seven Events including the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final. However during the Olympic season the Series consists of five Events.

Skaters can earn points at each competition, and the Skater who has the most points on a given distance at the end of the Series is the World Cup winner of that distance. The World Cup Competitions held from November to December serve as qualifying events for entry quotas at the ISU European, World Single Distances, World Sprint and World Allround Speed Skating Championships and during the Olympic season they are Olympic Qualifying Events. A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season; For Men: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, combined 5000m / 10,000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For Women 500m, 1000m, 1500m, the combined 3000m / 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For further information please visit isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating.