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Olympic silver medalists Medvedeva (RUS), Uno (JPN) lead line up at Skate Canada International

2018 Olympic silver medalists <u>Evgenia Medvedeva</u> (RUS) and <u>Shoma Uno</u> (JPN) start their Grand Prix season at Skate Canada International as the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2018/2019 continues in Laval, QC. Skate Canada International is the second of six events in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series.

Overview of the event

World silver medalist <u>Shoma Uno</u> headlines the Men's field and has to expect competition from 2018 Four Continents bronze medalist <u>Jason Brown</u> (USA), <u>Junhwan Cha</u> (KOR) and <u>Keegan Messing</u> (CAN). <u>Alexander Samarin</u> (RUS) won the bronze medal at Skate Canada a year ago and hopes to get onto the podium again. Other contenders include <u>Daniel Samohin</u> (ISR), <u>Kazuki Tomono</u> (JPN) and <u>Alexander Majorov</u> (SWE).

An exciting competition is guaranteed in the Ladies event with two-time World Champion Evgenia Medvedeva (RUS), 2018 World silver medalist Wakaba Higuchi (JPN) and 2015 World Champion Elizabet Tursynbaeva (KAZ), who has shown good form in her Challenger competitions, Mariah Bell (USA) and 2018 World Junior bronze medalist Mako Yamashita (JPN), who debuts on the senior circuit.

World bronze medalists <u>Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres</u> (FRA) lead the Pairs. Competition should come from Grand Prix medalists <u>Cheng Peng/Yang Jin</u> (CHN) and <u>Kirsten Moore-Towers/Michael Marinaro</u> (CAN). 2017 World Junior Champions <u>Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor</u> (AUS) and 2017 World Junior silver medalists <u>Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii</u> (RUS) debut on the ISU Grand Prix.

World silver medalists <u>Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue</u> (USA) come fresh from their victory at Skate America last week and are looking to qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. They need to watch out for <u>Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier</u> (CAN) and <u>Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov</u> (RUS). Other competitors include <u>Marie-Jade Lauriault/Romain Le Gac</u> (FRA) and <u>Olivia Smart/Adrian Diaz</u> (ESP). 2018 World Junior Champions <u>Anastasia Skoptcova/Kirill Aleshin</u> (RUS) will compete in their first senior-level Grand Prix event.

Overall, 60 skaters/couples representing 13 ISU members compete in Skate Canada International October 26-28, the second event of six in the series. The top 6 qualifiers in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Vancouver (CAN), December 6 to 9, 2018.

Schedule of the event

Friday, October 26 Pairs and Men's Short Programs, Rhythm Dance, Ladies Short Program Saturday, October 27 Pairs and Men's Free Skating, Free Dance, Ladies Free Skating

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Sunday, October 21 Exhibition Gala

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit: https://isu.org/GrandPrix. Follow the discussion on social media by using #FigureSkating #GPFigure.