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Shanghai, China

Shanghai ready for part two of Short Track Speed Skating's Asian double-header

After a superlative weekend of racing in Nagoya, Japan, the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating hops over to Shanghai, China for the second installment of its Asian double-header from 6-8 December.

While we may be on Chinese ice, most observers will be expecting another display of power from the Republic of Korea this coming weekend.

In Japan, the Koreans illustrated just how mighty their squad is. With Men's 500m ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Champion and No.1-ranked <u>Hwang Dae Heon</u> not competing, and leading lady <u>Choi Min Jeong</u> struggling for form, the rest of the field might have believed that Short Track Speed Skating's leading nation were vulnerable.

Exactly the opposite was true. On day one, Korea won all five gold medals available - thanks to a mixture of experienced Olympians and exciting newcomers.

<u>Kim Ji Yoo</u> has stood out this season, and the 20-year-old is in the form of her life. She won the 1500m in Nagoya, repeating her great result and performance in the same distance in Montreal earlier this season.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Ladies 1500m

<u>Park Ji Won</u> is also enjoying his best year to date: the 23-year-old was dazzlingly quick and tactically shrewd as he picked up gold in both the Men's 1000m and 1500m (2).

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Men 1000m

Noh Ah Rum took the Ladies' 1000m gold, beating ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Champion Suzanne Schulting (NED) with a bold, late pass. Rum has been largely anonymous for the past two seasons – her only other ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating individual gold came in 2016/17, and she missed the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games – but last weekend the 27-year-old looked like a world-beater.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Ladies 1000m

And there was a new name to add to the list of lightning-fast Koreans, too: <u>Kim Dong Wook</u>. He was tactically brilliant as he swept to the 1500m gold.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Men 1500m

The season's standout skater so far, however, remains a Canadian. <u>Kim Boutin</u> clinched her third successive 500m gold of the season in Nagoya, and will be confident of a fourth in Shanghai: nobody can match her raw speed at the moment – although a resurgent <u>Arianna Fontana</u> (ITA) is giving it a good try.

"I think it's a really good opportunity to go to Shanghai," says Boutin about this weekend. "It's great ice and I have a lot of things to work on. I'm very excited."

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ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Ladies 500m

Elsewhere, Schulting looks to be returning to top speed moving into the new year. She performed with trademark power and timing in Nagoya, winning the 1500m (2) to offset the disappointment of a rare loss in the 1000m.

In the Men's field, the duo looking most likely to break the Korean supremacy remain Hungarian brothers <u>Shaoang</u> and <u>Shaolin Sandor Lui</u>. Shaolin Sandor is the most consistent 500m skater of the season so far, while Shaoang won the gold in the same distance in Japan.

There should be plenty to cheer about for the home crowd, too. In the Ladies' field, China's <u>Han Yu Tong</u> has been consistently excellent in the 1500m and 1000m, while <u>Qu Chunyu</u> has been a real challenger in the 500m.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Ladies 3000m Relay

Look out for <u>Wu Dajing</u> in the 500m as always, while <u>An Kai</u> has done well in the 1500m, <u>and Han Tianyu</u> has been steady in the 1000m.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Men 500m

Just over two years out from an Olympic Winter Games down the road in Beijing, it's an exciting time for Short Track Speed Skating on Chinese ice.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Standings Men 5000m Relay

Where to watch and follow the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating 2019/20?

Viewers will be able to watch 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.

Subscribe to the <u>ISU Newsletter</u> to receive the latest information and the "<u>Where to Watch</u>" news. You can also subscribe to the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u> to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

YouTube: <u>ISU Skating</u> IG: @isuspeedskating

Facebook: @ISUShortTrackSpeedSkating

Twitter: @ISU_Speed

Follow the conversation with #ShortTrackSkating.

For further information on ISU Short Track Speed Skating visit: https://www.isu.org/short-track.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series events 2019/20:

Salt Lake City (USA) - November 1 - 2

Montréal (CAN) – November 8 – 10

Nagoya (JPN) – November 29 – December 1

Shanghai (CHN) – December 6 – 8

<u>Dresden (GER) – February 7 – 9</u>

<u>Dordrecht (NED) – February 14 – 16</u>

About ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series

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The World Cup series consists of nine distances 500, 1000 and 1500 meters for Ladies and Men, Ladies 3000 meters Team Relay, Men 5000 meters Team Relay and a Mixed Gender Relay over 2000 meters.

The competitions have a single distance character and are held in separate sessions over three days. Day 1 is dedicated to all Qualifying Rounds. Days 2 and 3 the last Qualifying Rounds (if necessary) take place, followed by the World Cup sessions.

For the Mixed Gender Relay Teams (2 Ladies & 2 Men), the Ladies 3000 meters Relay races and Men 5000 meters Relay races a maximum of four Skaters shall compete and must belong to the same ISU Member.