

October 23, 2021

Lausanne, SUI

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2021/22 Guaranteed Skate America, Day One

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2021/22 started with the Pairs and Men's Short Programs at [Guaranteed Rate Skate America](#) in Las Vegas (USA) Friday. [Vincent Zhou](#) (USA) and two-time World silver medalists [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS) took the lead in the Men's and Pairs Short Programs.

Tarasova/Morozov (RUS) skate to strong lead in Pairs Short Program

Two-time European champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) of Russia skated to a strong lead in the Pairs Short Program. 2021 World bronze medalists [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii](#) (RUS) came second ahead of Japan's [Riku Miura/Ryuichi Kihara](#).

Performing to "Metamorphosis 2" by Philipp Glass and "Experience" by Ludovico Einaudi, Tarasova/Morozov completed a side by side triple toeloop, a high triple twist, throw triple loop and picked up a level four for the twist, lift and combination spin. The Muscovites set a season's best of 80.36 points. "This is our fifth competition and we did a step forward with each one," Morozov said. "it was not 100 percent, we feel we can do more, but we are happy for today."

Boikova/Kozlovskii gave an intense performance to "Swan Lake" that was highlighted by a side by side triple Salchow, triple twist and throw triple flip. The 2020 European Champions earned 75.43 points. "Performing in our first competition right away in such a meaningful event such as Skate America was not a small challenge," Kozlovskii said. "We skated quite well, but it was only the first small step on our path towards the biggest goal of the season, the Olympic Games. We have to move forward step by step and we just started our path today."

Miura/Kihara turned in a strong performance to "Hallelujah" that featured a throw triple Lutz and three level-four elements, only the triple toeloop was slightly under-rotated. The Japanese Champions were awarded a season's best score of 72.63 points. "We did not get all levels (for the elements), but there were no big mistakes and so we are happy," Miura said.

[Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson](#) (USA) are currently ranked fourth at 68.87 points followed by U.S. Champions [Alexa Knierim/Brandon Frazier](#) on 66.37 points.

Zhou (USA) claims Men's Short Program as World Champion Chen (USA) falters

[Vincent Zhou](#) (USA) claimed the Men's Short Program. Japan's [Shoma Uno](#) sits second and [Jimmy Ma](#) (USA) surprisingly came third.

Zhou nailed a quad Lutz-triple toe combination, a slightly under-rotated quad Salchow and a somewhat shaky triple Axel in his routine to "Vincent". The 2019 World bronze medalist scored 97.43 points.

"I'm going to take this into tomorrow and use it to build confidence and move forward," the American said. "I did a good job performing the program and showing some of the great things that we've been doing in training. I can skate even better. I'm competing pretty consistently this season and this is just another building block."

Uno popped his planned quad flip into a double, but recovered to hit a quad toe-triple toe and a triple Axel to pick up 89.07 points. "I made a mistake on the quad flip, but I did the quad toe and I think this is the first time in two years I landed it cleanly," the 2018 Olympic silver medalist said. "I think I was showing what I have been doing in training, but it was not 100 percent yet."

Ma, who was named in the team for Skate America only a few days ago, produced a quad toe-triple toe, triple Lutz and triple Axel in his routine to "Black Swan." He earned a personal best score of 84.52 points.

"I definitely wasn't expecting to sit up here tonight," the 26-year-old said. "My only goal for this competition was to do everything I do in training, to feel the music. I didn't want to have any regrets going home. Obviously, there's still a big job ahead of me tomorrow and I'm very excited. I am excited to learn from this experience, it is unreal."

Three-time World Champion [Nathan Chen](#) (USA) fell on his opening quad Lutz and stumbled on his quad flip to finish fourth at 82.89 points. [Shun Sato](#) (JPN) placed fifth at 80.52 points and [Michal Brezina](#) (CZE) came sixth (75.43 points).

Guaranteed Rate Skate America continues Saturday with the Rhythm Dance, Women's Short Program, Pairs 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.