

April 16, 2022

Tallinn, Estonia

ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2022, Day Three

Ilia Malinin (USA) ruled at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Tallinn (EST) Saturday to take the title. Isabeau Levito (USA) soared to the lead in the Junior Women's Short Program.

Ilia Malinin (USA) celebrates "Golden Age" in Tallinn

[Ilia Malinin](#) (USA) crushed the competition and claimed gold with more than 40 points to spare. [Mikhail Shaidorov](#) of Kazakhstan rose from eighth place in the Short Program to give his country its first medal at the ISU World Junior Championships. Japan's [Tatsuya Tsuboi](#) moved up from fifth to earn the bronze.

Performing to "Nobody Knows" by Autograff and "Golden Age" by Woodkid, Malinin reeled off a quad Lutz, quad toe, quad Salchow, triple Axel, quad toe-Euler-triple Salchow and two more triple-triple combinations as well as two level-four spins. The National silver medalist set a personal best with 187.12 points and racked up 276.11 points overall.

"I feel relieved that I finished the season really, really good and that I was able to skate a clean long. It makes me feel happy that I was able to put in the effort that I did today," the 17-year-old said.

"After the Junior Worlds that was held here a couple of years ago, I noticed that I needed to work a lot more on getting better jumping, and more skating quality, better spins and choreography overall.

"So the past few years we've been working on those the most and it definitely helped out in the long run," he explained. Malinin had finished 16th in his Junior World Championship debut in 2020 in Tallinn.

Shaidorov produced a quad toe-triple toe, another quad toe, two triple Axels and three more triples in his routine to "Once Upon a Time in America". The 17-year-old only underrotated his quad Lutz and achieved a personal best of 159.17 points to total 234.31 points.

"We had a very difficult preparation for this competition as I had to skate on public sessions, but I was able to deal with it and I'm satisfied," the Kazakh Skater said. Like Malinin, he improved his result from the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020 significantly – he had placed 22nd then.

"After the last Junior Worlds we had the (Covid-19) quarantine and I used the time doing a lot of off-ice training outside. There were only a few competitions during the pandemic, so I developed in a good way and the result has shown," Shaidorov said at the post-event press conference.

Tsuboi's program to Preludes by Sergei Rachmaninoff included a slightly underrotated quad Salchow (q), two triple Axels as well as five more triple jumps. The Japanese Skater picked up 154.67 points, a personal best, and 233.82 points overall.

"From what I accomplished here at junior worlds I'm very happy with myself and I prepared and worked very hard for this competition," the 19-year-old said.

"As for moving up to the senior level, there are lots of strong skaters in Japan such as [Yuzuru Hanyu](#), [Shoma Uno](#), [Yuma Kagiyama](#), so I really have to practice hard and be ready to compete at that level against those top skaters as well as international skaters," he said.

[Wesley Chiu](#) (CAN) slipped from second to fourth after missing a quad toe and making some other errors. [Stephen Gogolev](#) (CAN) finished fifth on 224.49 points while [Mikhail Selevko](#) (EST) dropped from third to sixth (218.68 points).

“The Swan” Isabeau Levito (USA) soars to the lead in the Short Program

[Isabeau Levito](#) (USA) flew high in the Junior Women’s Short Program to take the lead ahead of Korea’s [Jia Shin](#) and [Ahsun Yun](#) at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Tallinn (EST) Saturday.

Levito nailed a triple flip, double Axel, triple Lutz-triple loop combination as well as level-four spins and footwork in her balletic performance to “The Swan” by Camille Saint-Saens. The 15-year-old posted a personal best of 72.50 points. It was a high-level competition with many strong performances.

“I feel I skated the way I wanted to and I didn’t hold back. I am very satisfied,” the ISU Junior Grand Prix Courchevel Champion said. “I trained extra hard on the performance aspect in my programs and everything improved a lot.

“My coach gets a lot of music, from there we dive into different types, softer or stronger. When I heard this song, I was very excited and I wanted to do it this year. It is something I didn’t do before. I was very eager to learn the new movements and ballet style for this program. It’s very fun to compete (to) it.”

Shin’s performance to “La Boheme” included a triple Lutz-triple toe, double Axel, triple flip and difficult spins and steps. The ISU Junior Grand Prix Baltic Cup bronze medalist achieved a personal best with 69.38 points.

“I was a little nervous for the competition but I did my best for the performance and that is what brings me here,” the 14-year-old said. “I practice really hard every time, not only the jumps but also the non-jump elements, the spins. I train not only on ice, but off ice. This is the secret what made me better and got me here.”

Skating to “La Strada”, Yun produced a triple Lutz-triple toe, double Axel and a triple flip to score 66.28 points, improving her personal best by almost six points.

“First of all I am very happy I performed a clean program today,” the ISU Junior Grand Prix competitor told the press. “I am a bit disappointed in some parts. I lost a few levels, two spins were a level three. I will do my best for the free skating and do what I want to do – which is to skate clean.”

[Lindsay Thorngren](#) (USA) is just 0.14 points behind in fourth place (66.14 points). [Seoyeong Wi](#) (KOR) in fifth remains very close to the podium as well on 66.09 points. [Niina Petrokina](#) (EST) is currently ranked sixth at 65.90 points.

Event Schedule

The schedule of the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2022 is as follows:

Sunday, April 17

Ice Dance/Free Dance, Women’s Free Skating

* Following the IOC recommendation, in order to protect the integrity of ice skating competitions and for the safety of all the participants of international ice skating competitions, the ISU Council based on Article 17.1.q) i) of the ISU Constitution, agreed that with immediate effect and until further notice, no Skaters belonging to the ISU Members in Russia (Russian Skating Union and the Figure Skating Federation of Russia) and Belarus (Skating Union of Belarus) shall be invited or allowed to participate in international ice skating competitions including ISU Championships and other ISU Events (Full [Statement](#) to be read on ISU website).

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