

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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## **2004 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Day Two**

The 2004 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships continued Tuesday in The Hague, The Netherlands, with the Compulsory Dances and the Men's Short Program

### **Ice Dancing, Compulsory Dances**

The Compulsory Dances drawn for the Junior World Championships are the Quickstep and the Paso Doble. Both the Quickstep and the Paso Doble were invented by Daphne B. Wallis and Reginald J. Wilkie, and they both were performed for the first time in 1938 at the Westminster Ice Rink in London, Great Britain.

There are still two Compulsory Dances to be skated at Junior Worlds while seniors do only one dance. As there are more than 25 entries (28 are entered), the dance teams were divided into two qualifying Compulsory Dance groups.

Group B was drawn to skate first. Elena Romanovskaya/Alexander Grachev of Russia came in first in this group, winning both dances clearly. The two-time World Junior bronze medalists skated close together. Their Quickstep was fast and they looked sharp in the Paso Doble. The team received marks from 4.7 to 5.2 for technique and 5.0 to 5.4 for timing/expression in the Quickstep. Their marks in the Paso Doble went up to 5.2 for technique and up to 5.3 for timing/expression. "It wasn't super or great, it was like in practice, and I think it could have been better," Romanovskaya said. "Of course, we didn't show that we were nervous, but we just felt it could have been better. It's very cold in this rink. When it's warm and I go out on the ice, I feel better right away. I was a bit sick, too. I hope we'll train well tomorrow and the day after tomorrow we'll skate better and with more confidence than today."

Tied in second place are Israel's Alexandra Zaretski/Roman Zaretski and Anna Cappellini/Matteo Zanni (ITA). The brother and sister team was second in the Quickstep and third in the Paso Doble, and it was the other way around for the Italians. Zaretski/Zaretski put out two solid dances. Their marks in the Quickstep ranged from 4.2 to 5.0 (A) and from 4.5 to 5.3 (B) while they received marks from 4.3 to 5.0 (A) and 4.2 to 5.0 (B) in the Paso Doble. "We were a bit afraid of the Quickstep as we didn't skate it so much this season", Roman Zaretski explained. "But we skated it well. We were also very pleased with our Paso Doble, and we were surprised to be in third place. Now we just have to get ready and do well in the Original Dance."

Cappellini/Zanni performed a good Quickstep, but they had a wobble in the Paso Doble. They still managed to beat the Israeli couple in this dance. They scored marks from 4.0 to 4.9 (A) and 4.3 to 5.2 (B) in the Paso Doble. Their marks in the Quickstep went up to 5.0 for technique and up to 5.2 for timing/expression. "We did the Quickstep very well and we were already happy with our position in this first dance", Zanni commented. "The Paso Doble is our best dance, and so we expected to do well there. However, we had a little problem. Our blades clashed together."

Nora Hoffmann/Attila Elek of Hungary dominated Group A. The reigning World Junior silver medalists produced two very strong performances. They showed off their deep edges and good knee action in the Quickstep, while they were precise and aggressive in the Paso Doble. The Junior Grand Prix Champions earned marks from 5.0 to 5.4 (A) and from 5.2 to 5.4 (B) for their Quickstep and from 4.9 to 5.2 (A) and from 5.1 to 5.3 (B) for the Paso Doble. "It was difficult as our training

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this morning was in the practice rink and the ice quality is different”, Hoffmann said. “We drew the most unfortunate starting number, 11 (for the first dance) which meant that we didn’t have much time in between the dances. This is the fifth time for us to do the Quickstep, we did it in both junior and senior competitions. We did the Paso Doble for the second time, but the first time was only in smaller competitions. It will be one of the senior Compulsory Dances next year, so it was a good preparation for us.”

Tied in second place are Russia’s Natalia Mikhailova/Arkadi Sergeev and Morgan Matthews/Maxim Zavozin (USA). Mikhailova/Sergeev placed second in the Quickstep and third in the Paso Doble. Their Quickstep looked a bit rushed, and they had a little stumble in the Paso Doble, but they showed good speed in both dances. Their marks went up to 5.3 for both technique and timing/expression in the Quickstep, while they received marks ranging from 4.6 to 4.9 (A) and from 4.9 to 5.1 (B) for their Paso Doble. “I agree, the Compulsories aren’t our strong point”, Sergeev admitted. “At the beginning of the competition, we’re always nervous. Our Compulsories are better in practice than in competition. Hopefully we’ll do better on Thursday in the Original Dance. We prefer the Quickstep over the Paso as it suits our character better.”

Matthews/Zavozin could have had better unison in the Quickstep, but their Paso Doble was very confident and fast. Their marks were as high as 5.1 for technique and 5.3 for timing/expression in the Paso Doble. In the Quickstep, they scored marks up to 5.2 for technique and 5.3 for timing/expression. “The Paso is exciting, it’s probably one of our favourite dances”, Matthews told the press. “For Compulsories, we enjoy the Latin dances the most. We like things where we can be very powerful, and the Paso is a powerful dance. We just went for it, didn’t hold anything back.” The second place in the Compulsory Dance was a nice birthday present for Zavozin, who turned 19 today.

## **Men, Short Program**

In what was an exciting competition, Andrei Griazev of Russia took the lead in the Men’s Short Program ahead of Evan Lysacek (USA) and Frenchman Alban Preaubert. Griazev looked pale when he started his Tango routine, but he nailed a huge triple Axel that was so high that he had almost trouble to land it and he only added a double toeloop for his combination. The Junior Grand Prix silver medalist went on to complete the required triple flip out of footwork, a double Axel and strong spins and footwork. He pulled into the lead with marks from 5.0 to 5.8 for required elements and from 5.2 to 5.9 for presentation. “I felt much better than yesterday in qualifying”, Griazev commented. “I skated well throughout the whole program, not like yesterday. I wasn’t nervous, but I wanted to do everything carefully. I had planned a triple-triple combination, but I changed it because of the situation. I didn’t land the Axel very well, I almost overrotated it and I didn’t risk the triple toe.”

Lysacek seemed very nervous and he had to fight for the landing of his triple Axel, adding a double toeloop. But he came back strongly with a triple flip, double Axel and he really got into his Paso Doble (Espana Cani) in his straight line footwork. The Junior Grand Prix Champion earned marks from 5.2 to 5.7 (A) and from 5.4 to 5.8 (B) for this performance. “I had some boot problems again”, Lysacek explained. “One of my hooks came out and then my hole (for the lace) ripped on the other boot. It happened after the warm up, before my program. I was a bit jittery then. I didn’t feel great, not to make excuses, I tried to do my best. It’s very uncharacteristic for me to skate like that. I’m disappointed that this happened now.” The skater added that his boots will be taken to a shoemaker tomorrow to get them fixed.

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Preaubert opened his program with a triple Axel-double toeloop combination, but the first jump had lean in the air. The 2003 World junior bronze medalist hit a triple flip and a nice double Axel, but his straight line footwork could have been more difficult. With marks up to 5.6 for required elements and up to 5.7 for presentation, the Frenchman placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Short Program but held on to third place overall. "I could have done a bit better, with a triple Axel-triple toeloop combination", Preaubert commented. "I did just a triple-double combination, because the Axel was a bit shaky. I think I could have been in the top three for the Short Program, but I stayed in contention and I'm in the last warm up group which is important for the long program. It was a bit hard, I skated last and I heard the audience cheering for the other skaters. Obviously, everybody was skating quite well and I had to stay focused."

Jordan Brauniger (USA) was ranked third in the Short Program. The American produced a solid performance that included a triple Axel-triple toeloop combination (but the toeloop appeared underrotated).

The Championships continue tomorrow (Wednesday) with the Ladies Qualifying Round and the Pairs Free Program. For full results, please see: [www.isu.org](http://www.isu.org)

The New Judging System, which was developed following a decision of the ISU Congress in 2002, was used for the 2003 Grand Prix of Figure Skating series and Grand Prix Final. As the ISU Council prepares the New Judging System for a Congress decision in June, the interim 6.0 system will be used at ISU Championships. The New Judging System received widespread support from skaters and officials during the Grand Prix series and the Council will propose that it be included in ISU Regulations from 2004/5 onwards. The ISU's Figure Skating Member Federations will debate and vote on the proposal at the Congress in June.

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