

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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Press release

Minsk, February 12, 2017

ISU WORLD CUP 2016/17 – MINSK (BLR) #WCShortTrack

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series 2016/17 concluded today with the Ladies and Men 500 m, second 1500 m and Relay Finals.

One-two finish for Kazakhstan in the Men's 500 m final

Ye Jin Kim (KOR) lead from start to finish to win the Ladies 500 m. She finished ahead of the 2017 Lady European Champion, Arianna Fontana (ITA). Yara van Kerkhof (NED) claimed the third and final podium spot, finishing ahead of Veronique Pierron (FRA). Yang Liu (CHN) was the other skater in the final. Despite not competing this weekend, Marianne St-Gelais (CAN) clinches the World Cup title for the distance with 37,021 points. Elise Christie (GBR) earned three wins in the distance this season and finishes second in the World cup ranking with 35,264 points. Kexin Fan (CHN) ranks third overall with 33,616 points.

On the Men's side, skaters from Kazakhstan finished in first and second place in the 500 m final: Denis Nikisha took the win followed by his teammate Abzal Azhgaliyev. Both skaters exchanged the lead throughout the race. Francois Hamelin (CAN) finished in third place, ahead of Joon Chun Kim (KOR). Dajing Wu (CHN) claims the overall World Cup title for the distance with three wins and 38,000 points. He is followed by Abzal Azhgaliyev (KAZ) with 34,433 points and Shaolin Sandor Liu (HUN) with 33,774 points.

Yutong Han (CHN) and Yong Jin Liu (KOR) with their respective 1000 m (2) final

In the second Ladies 1000 m, Yutong Han (CHN) won the race after taking the lead with one lap to go. She finished ahead of Rianne de Vries (NED) and Charlotte Gilmartin (GBR) who were in second and third place respectively. Sumire Kikuchi (JPN) received a penalty in the race. Suzanne Schulting (NED) moves ahead of Min Jeong Choi (KOR) to clinch the World Cup total for the distance. Schulting accumulated three podiums this season and 29,198 points. Choi sits second with 28,000 points followed by Elise Christie (GBR) at 21,678 points. Both skaters won the event twice this past season.

On the Men's side, it was another Korean win in the 1000 m distance: this time, it was Yong Jin Liu who won the race. Thibaut Fauconnet (FRA) finished in second place, ahead of Nurbergen Zhumagazyev (KAZ). Guillaume Bastille (CAN) finished in fourth place. The other skaters in the race included Vladislav Bykanov (ISR) who received a penalty, and Kyung Hua Hong (KOR) who did not finish the race. With one win during the World Cup 2016/17 Series, Shaoang Liu (HUN) clinches the title for the distance with 28,669 points. Thibaut Fauconnet (FRA) moved into second place overall with 27,517 points followed by Nurbergen Zhumagazyev (KAZ) with 27,486 points.

Russia (Ladies) and Netherlands (Men) take gold in the Relay events

Russia won today's Ladies 3000 m Relay final, followed closely by Italy. Third place finisher was Korea, while Canada finished fourth. Korea clinches the overall Ladies Relay World Cup title with four wins and 40,000 points. Netherlands follows with 34,000 points, and Canada finishes in third place with 27,200 points.

Official Series Hashtag: #WCShortTrack

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In the Men's 5000 m Relay final, Netherlands won its first team event of this year's World Cup Series and clinches the overall World Cup title for the distance. Russia finished second followed by Kazakhstan. China finished in fourth place. Netherlands finishes the season with 34,000 points, followed by China with 30,240 points. Hungary finished the 2016/17 World Cup series with the same amount of points as China however is ranked third overall.

For full results of the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series 2016/17 please refer to <http://shorttrack.sportresult.com/> and <http://www.isu.org/en/speed-skating/series/isu-world-cup-speed-skating>

The world's best short track speed skaters will reconvene at the 2017 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships in Rotterdam, Netherlands on March 10-12, 2017.

About ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating 2016/17 Series

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating circuit consists of six events across North America, Asia and Europe. For the third year the format of the Series will consist of one day of qualification and two days of World Cup Sessions which includes the Finals. At each competition the Men and Ladies Relay races will take place along with Men and Ladies individual races which will be held over 500m, 1000m and 1500m and single distances determine the winners. The series starts in Calgary (CAN) on November 4-6 and will move to Salt Lake City (USA) on November 11-13. Almost a month later the Series will continue in Asia with Shanghai (CHN) on December 9-11 and move to Gangneung (KOR) on December 16-18 which will be the official test event for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang. After a long break the World Cup will pick up again in Europe, with the first stop in Dresden (GER) on February 3-5 and finally in Minsk (BLR) on February 10-12. The full ISU Calendar of Events is available here: <http://www.isu.org/en/news-and-events/calendar-of-events>

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series is available as a live stream on the ISU Skating Channel. Please note that geoblocking may be required in certain territories <http://livemanager.eurovision.edgesuite.net/isu/index.html>

For further information, please contact:

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ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Minsk (BLR) medalists

Ladies 500m

	Name of athlete	Nation	Time
1	KIM, Ye Jin	CHN	43.842
2	FONTANA, Arianna	ITA	43.959
3	van Kerkhof, Yara	NED	44.093

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Men 500m

	Name of athlete	Nation	Time
1	NIKISHA, Denis	KAZ	41.219
2	AZHGALIYEV, Abzal	KAZ	41.436
3	HAMELIN, Francois	CAN	41.473

Ladies 1000m (2)

	Name of athlete	Nation	Time
1	HAN, Yutong	CHN	1:31.868
2	de VRIES, Rianne	NED	1:32.092
3	GILMARTIN, Charlotte	GBR	1:32.415

Men 1000m (2)

	Name of athlete	Nation	Time
1	LIM, Yong Jin	KOR	1:26.496
2	FAUCONNET, Thibaut	FRA	1:26.853
3	ZHUMAGAZIYEV, Nurbergen	KAZ	1:27.219

Ladies 3000m Relay

	Nation	Time
1	RUSSIA	4:19.627
2	ITALY	4:19.748
3	KOREA	4:19.848

Men 5000m Relay

	Nation	Time
1	NETHERLANDS	6:55.699
2	RUSSIA	6:56.453
3	KAZAKHSTAN	6:56.537