

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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Press release

Stavanger, March 10, 2017

ISU Speed Skating World Cup Final Stavanger – Day 1 #WCSpeed

Martina Sáblíková (CZE) took gold in the 3000m to win her 11th consecutive long distance World Cup at the ISU Speed Skating World Cup Final Stavanger on Saturday. Nao Kodaira (JPN) won the 500m, securing the 500m World Cup with one race to go, and Heather Bergsma (USA) grabbed gold and the World Cup in the 1000m.

In the Men's tournament Kjeld Nuis concluded a near perfect season with a gold medal to take the 1000m World Cup. Dai Dai Ntab won Saturday's 500m, with countrymen Ronald Mulder, Kai Verbij and Jan Smeeckens coming second, third and fourth. Jorrit Bergsma (NED) won the Men's long distance World Cup.

Sáblíková strong as ever in long distances

Sáblíková dominated the long distances as usual this season. She won four of five 3000m races and the only 5000m race in Heerenveen. At the World Cup final, she easily beat Russia's Anna Yurakova finishing in 4:04.21. Yurakova clocked 4:06.80 to end up in fourth place, enough to stay ahead of Antoinette de Jong (NED) in second place of the long distance World Cup ranking. De Jong came second in Stavanger with 4:05.35, to finish third in the World Cup. Melissa Wijfje grabbed Saturday's 3000m bronze in 4:05.59 to end up fourth in the ranking.

Nao Kodaira reigned the 500m with an iron fist this season. The 31-year-old World Champion won all seven 500m World Cup races she skated and sealed her crown in 37.14, with one race to go on Sunday. European Sprint Champion Karolina Erbanova came second in 37.87 on Saturday and Heather Bergsma (USA) took bronze in 38.13.

Bergsma ruled the 1000m as merciless as Kodaira the 500m this season. With 1:14.85, the American took her sixth World Cup win in six races this season to conquer the 1000m World Cup. Nao Kodaira took the 1000m silver in 1:14.90 and the bronze went to Erbanova with 1:15.22. Miho Takagi, who came fourth in 1:15.31, took the overall silver and Marrit Leenstra (NED) finished in a disappointing 1:16.11 (6) to drop to third in the final ranking.

Men's 500m gearing up to Sunday climax

The Men's 500m will see its climax on Sunday. Top ranked Ruslan Murashov (RUS) was not able to secure the World Cup win on Saturday, finishing fifth behind four Dutchmen. Dai Dai Ntab grabbed his second career World Cup win in 34.93, with Ronald Mulder (34.99) taking silver. Kai Verbij and Jan Smeeckens both finished in 35.01 to end up in third and fourth place. Verbij was 0.006 ahead of Smeeckens to take the bronze. In the World Cup Ntab, Mulder, and theoretically even Verbij, can still push Murashov off the top spot on Sunday. Pavel Kulizhnikov (RUS) is ranked third at the moment, but he is absent in Stavanger.

Kjeld Nuis was the only man to beat the 1:09 barrier in the 1000m with 1:08.76 on Saturday. The World Champion thus took the World Cup with Canada's Vincent De Haitre and countryman Verbij ending up second and third in the final ranking. De Haitre also took Saturday's silver in 1:09.28 and German Nico Ihle won the bronze medal in 1:09.42.

Official Series Hashtag: #WCSpeed

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The Men's long distance World Cup was going to be decided in a last race showdown between Jorrit Bergsma (NED) and Peter Michael (NZL), but Michael's ambitions were bigger than his legs could carry. The New-Zealander had to beat Bergsma to win the World Cup, and he tried to attack his opponent in the early stages of the race. Bergsma was unimpressed and steadily skated away from Michael to win in Saturday's final in 6:17.74, and seal the World Cup. Michael only came tenth in 6:37.62 and dropped to third place in the final ranking. Ted-Jan Bloemen took silver in 6:18.46 and also ended up second in the final classification. Dutch Erik Jan Kooiman took Saturday's bronze in 6:19.07 to end up fourth in the final ranking.

Team Pursuit titles for Japan and the Netherlands

The Japanese ladies managed to beat the Netherlands for the overall victory in the Team Pursuit. Both countries had won two Team Pursuit races prior to the final and with Japan's win in Stavanger they ended up with the same amount of points. Japan took home the World Cup because they had three gold medals versus the Dutch two. Russia took the bronze in Stavanger and finished third in the ranking as well.

In the Men's Team Pursuit the Netherlands and Norway fought a tough battle, with the Dutchmen coming out on top. The Dutch seemed to take a comfortable lead in the second half of the race, but Norway crossed the final split before the finish with a 0.08 advantage. The Netherlands bounced back in the final lap however. With 3:43.02 they were 0.33 faster than the home team in Stavanger. Japan took the bronze in 3:44.09. The final World Cup ranking was similar with the Netherlands first, Norway second and Japan third.

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

About ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2016/17 Series

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating circuit consists of six events across Asia and Europe. The series starts in Harbin (CHN) on November 11-13 and moves to Nagano (JPN) on November 18-20. In December the Series goes to Europe stopping in Astana (KAZ) on December 2-4 and to Heerenveen (NED) on December 9-11. On January 27-19 2017 the fifth leg of the event will be in Berlin (GER) and the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final will take place in Chelyabinsk (RUS) on March 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 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>

Results ISU World Cup Stavanger

500m Ladies

1	Nao Kodaira	JPN	37.14
2	Karolina Erbanova	CZE	37.87
3	Heather Bergsma	USA	38.13

World Cup ranking 500m Ladies

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1	Nao Kodaira	JPN	750
2	Maki Tsuji	JPN	545
3	Jing Yu	CHN	452

500m Men

1	Dai Dai Ntab	NED	34.93
2	Ronald Mulder	NED	34.99
3	Kai Verbij	NED	35.01

World Cup ranking 500m Men

1	Ruslan Murashov	RUS	521
2	Dai Dai Ntab	NED	435
3	Pavel Kulizhnikov	RUS	425

1000m Ladies

1	Heather Bergsma	NED	1:14.85
2	Nao Kodaira	JPN	1:14.90
3	Karolina Erbanova	CZE	1:15.22

World Cup final ranking 1000m Ladies

1	Heather Bergsma	USA	650
2	Miho Takagi	JPN	476
3	Marrit Leenstra	NED	451

1000m Men

1	Kjeld Nuis	NED	1:08.76
2	Vincent De Haitre	CAN	1:09.28
3	Nico Ihle	GER	1:09.42

World Cup final ranking 1000m Men

1	Kjeld Nuis	NED	550
2	Vincent De Haitre	CAN	440
3	Kai Verbij	NED	394

3000m Ladies

1	Martina Sáblíková	CZE	4:04.21
2	Antoinette de Jong	NED	4:05.35
3	Melissa Wijfje	NED	4:05.59

World Cup final ranking 3000m Ladies

1	Martina Sáblíková	CZE	630
2	Anna Yurakova	RUS	395
3	Antoinette de Jong	NED	360

5000m Men

1	Jorrit Bergsma	NED	6:17.74
2	Ted-Jan Bloemen	CAN	6:18.46

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3	Erik Jan Kooiman	NED	6:19.07
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World Cup final ranking 5000m Men

1	Jorrit Bergsma	NED	480
2	Ted-Jan Bloemen	CAN	413
3	Peter Michael	NZL	338

Team Pursuit Men

1	Jorrit Bergsma, Douwe de Vries, Evert Hoolwerf	NED	3:43.02
2	Sindre Henriksen, Simen Spieler Nilsen, Sverre Lunde Pedersen,	NOR	3:43.35
3	Shota Nakamura, Shane Williamson, Ryosuke Tsuchiya	JPN	3:44.09

World Cup final ranking Team Pursuit Men

1	Netherlands	NED	430
2	Norway	NOR	390
3	Japan	JPN	374

Team Pursuit Ladies

1	Miho Takagi, Nana Takagi, Misaki Oshigiri	JPN	3:00.60
2	Marije Joling, Annouk van der Weijden, Melissa Wijfje	NED	3:02.42
3	Olga Graf, Yelizaveta Kazelina, Natalya Voronina,	RUS	3:02.93

World Cup final ranking Team Pursuit Ladies

1	Japan	JPN	430
2	Netherlands	NED	430
3	Russia	RUS	384