

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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Event 1 (of 6)

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ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating: Trophée Bompard Preview

The 2009/2010 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating opens with the Trophée Bompard in Paris, France from October 26 to 28. For the first time, the Trophée Bompard is the first of six events in the series that traditionally started with Skate America. The skaters compete for a global prize money of US \$ 180, 000 per individual event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and receive points according to their placements.

The prize money is awarded to winners and placed skaters/couples as follows:

- 1st place US \$ 18,000
- 2nd place US \$ 13,000
- 3rd place US \$ 9,000
- 4th place US \$ 3,000
- 5th place US \$ 2,000

The points are awarded as follows:

- 1st place 15 points
- 2nd place 13 points
- 3rd place 11 points
- 4th place 9 points
- 5th place 7 points
- 6th place 5 points
- 7th place 4 points
- 8th place 3 points

Pairs collect points only up to 6th place. According to the ranking order by points, the top six skaters and couples from each discipline will proceed to the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Tokyo, Japan (December 3 to 6). The global prize money for the Grand Prix Final is US \$ 272, 000.

The skaters are seeded and invited to the Grand Prix of Figure Skating according to the results of the most recent ISU World Championships. Skaters/couples who have placed 1 to 6 in each of the four categories are considered to be seeded and are assigned by draw to skate in two events. Next priority is be given to those skaters/couples who have achieved a seasonal best (as posted on the ISU website for season 2008/2009) score equal to or better than the top six from the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2009. Skaters/couples who have placed 7-12 at the most recent ISU World Championships will be selected for two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events.

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In the Ladies' event, reigning World Champion Yu-Na Kim (KOR) will face competition from 2008 World Champion Mao Asada (JPN) and 2008 World silver medalist Carolina Kostner (ITA). Other contenders include Yukari Nakano (JPN), 2007 World Junior Champion Caroline Zhang (USA), 2007 European bronze medalist Kiira Korpi and Elene Gedevanishvili (GEO).

Reigning European Champion Brian Joubert (FRA) headlines the Men's field at Trophée Bompard. He will be challenged by 2008 European Champion Tomas Verner, Nobunari Oda (JPN) and 2009 World Junior Champion Adam Rippon (USA). Competition promises to be tough with Grand Prix medalists Alban Preaubert (FRA), Yannick Ponsero (FRA) and Sergei Voronov (RUS) aiming at a top placement as well.

Two-time and reigning World Champions Aliona Savchenko/Robin Szolkowy (GER) lead the Pairs. Competition should come from European bronze medalists Maria Mukhortva/Maxim Trankov (RUS) and 2008 World bronze medalists Jessica Dube/Bryce Davison (CAN). Others to watch include Rena Inoue/John Baldwin (USA), Vanessa James/Yannick Bonheur (FRA) and 2008 World Junior bronze medalists Huibo Dong/Yiming Wu (CHN).

In the Ice Dance event, reigning World bronze medalists Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir (CAN) will meet European bronze medalists Sinead Kerr/John Kerr (GBR) and Nathalie Pechalat/Fabian Bourzat (FRA). Also looking for a good placement are 2008 World Junior Champions Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates (USA), Ekaterina Rubleva/Ivan Shefer (RUS) and Kimberly Navarro/Brent Bommembre (USA). ISU Junior Grand Prix Final silver medalists Madison Hubbell/Keiffer Hubbell (USA) debut on the ISU Grand Prix series (senior level).

The full list of entries is available at www.isu.org

The schedule of Trophée Bompard is as follows:

Friday, October 16: Compulsory & Original Dance, Ladies, Men and Pairs Short Program

Saturday, October 17: Free Dance, Ladies, Pairs and Men Free Skating

Sunday, October 18: Exhibition Gala

For further information please contact:

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