

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS: CHEMIN DE PRIMEROSE 2 - CH 1007 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND  
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**Day 1**

**Lausanne, 12 February 2003**

## **ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships** **Beijing (CHN) 12-16 February**

The 2003 Four Continents Championships in Beijing, China, started Wednesday with the Compulsory Dance, the Ladies' and Pairs Short Programs. The 2003 Four Continents Championships are the fifth in the history of this event, and they are held for the first time in China. China is hosting an ISU Figure Skating Championship for the first time in history.

### **Ice Dancing, Compulsory Dance**

The Championships were opened by the Ice Dancers with the Compulsory Dance. Following a decision of the 2002 ISU congress, only one Compulsory Dance is now skated at Championships. A draw was made to determine the Compulsory Dance for this event, the Quickstep. The Quickstep was invented by Daphne Wallis and Reginald Wilkie and was first performed in 1938.

Two-time Four Continents champions Shae-Lynn Bourne/Victor Kraatz of Canada took the lead ahead of defending champions Naomi Lang/Peter Tchernyshev (USA) and their compatriots Marie-France Dubreuil/Patrice Lauzon. Bourne/Kraatz delivered a very strong dance, showing off good unison and speed. The couple received marks up to 5.8 for technique and up to 5.9 for timing/expression.

"The Quickstep was the best we've done so far", Bourne commented. "It's exciting to compete in China. There weren't so many people here today to watch, but I think it's just the first event and more will come probably by the free dance. We've never been here before, it's a first, it's very neat to be here." The couple is competing in their first international event this season as they missed the Grand Prix series due to injury. "You never lose that feeling", Bourne explained. "Some people might think you're off a little bit and you can't find that feeling, but you never lose it."

Lang/Tchernyshev also put out a good performance of the Quickstep, dancing close together. Their marks ranged between 4.5 to 5.6 for technique and between 4.4 to 5.7 for timing/expression. "I think it's a really good beginning, and we're looking forward to the Original and Free Dances. We'll try to have strong practices and then to give it all out in competition", Tchernyshev said.

Dubreuil/Lauzon portrayed the bight and happy character of the dance very well to earn marks up to 5.4 for technique and up to 5.6 for timing/expression.

"We are very satisfied with our performance", Dubreuil told the press. "I've been coming back from an injury, but now I'm getting back into my normal shape. I have an injury in my left hip, and my muscle isn't functioning very well. It's getting better, but I'm not a 100 percent yet. It is a little challenging this week. It will have more influence in the Original and Free Dances, in the lifts and the positions, where I really have to extend my leg." Dubreuil got injured last November when the couple collided with Albena Denkova/Maxim Staviski (BUL) in practice at Bofrost Cup in Germany.

Defending Four Continents silver medalists Tanith Belbin/Benjamin Agosto (USA) are currently standing in fourth place. Agosto slipped for an instant during the dance. "I think I was going a little too deep, slipping off. I don't think I missed any steps. Other than that the dance felt really good", he explained.

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## **Ladies, Short Program**

In the Ladies' Short Program, the Japanese skaters swept the top three places. National Champion Fumie Suguri held off a challenge by Asian Games Champion Shizuka Arakawa and World Junior silver medalist Yukari Nakano. Skating to an excerpt of Frederic Chopin's second piano concerto, Suguri landed a triple Lutz-double toeloop combination, a double Axel and showed nice spins. However, she was a bit off-balance on her triple flip. The reigning World bronze medalist scored marks ranging from 5.2 to 5.7 for required elements and from 5.4 to 5.8 for presentation. "It was not too bad, but not too good. It was better than to fall, though. All the jumps were a bit shaky", the 2001 Four Continents Champion said. "But it was a step forward. It is hard to compete here, I just come from the Asian Games. There was just one week in between, and it's difficult to keep the condition and the concentration."

Arakawa hit a triple Lutz-double toeloop combination and the double Axel in her program to a modern version of "Swan Lake", but her triple flip was somewhat wobbly, and her combination spin looked slow. Her marks were close to Suguri's, going up to 5.6 for both required elements and presentation. "I had planned to do a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, but I got afraid and changed it into a triple-double", Arakawa explained. "I felt good out there on the ice, but I could have done better than that. I really want to focus on the rest of the competition. This is my fourth competition in a row, and it's hard for me, but I want to show my best performance in the Free Program."

Nakano opened her routine with a triple Axel-double toeloop combination, but the jump was underrotated and therefore not ratified by the ISU referee. No lady has yet landed a clean triple Axel in the Short Program. The Asian Games bronze medalist went on to produce a triple flip, a high double Axel and solid spins. The judges awarded marks ranging from 5.0 to 5.8 for required elements and from 5.3 to 5.7 for presentation. "If ratified or not, I'm just glad to have landed it (the triple Axel) and to have finished everything without mistakes", the 17-year-old commented. "I wasn't scheduled for this event, but I was assigned to it due to Yoshie Onda's withdrawal. I'm very glad to be here. I won a medal at the Asian Games, but I wasn't satisfied with my performance. I hope to skate better here and to win a medal."

Reigning World Junior Champion Ann Patrice McDonough (USA) came in fourth after she singled her Axel.

## **Pairs Short Program**

The Chinese pair skaters repeated the feat of the Japanese Ladies and took the first three spots after the Short Program. Reigning World Champions Xue Shen/Hongbo Zhao put out a dynamic performance to "Beethoven's Last Night" that featured side by side triple toeloops, a high double twist and a huge throw triple loop. The Olympic bronze medalists received marks ranging from 5.6 to 5.9 for required elements and from 5.7 to 5.8 for presentation. "I think we performed up to our level", Shen told the press. "We felt a bit nervous, because we competed at home, in Beijing." Zhao added: "The audience was really warm and supported us a lot. That's a nice feeling that we don't usually have when competing abroad."

Defending Four Continents Champions Qing Pang/Jian Tong produced side by side triple toeloops, a triple throw high Salchow, but their side by side spin was slightly out of sync at the exit. The couple's marks ranged from 5.0 to 5.7 for required elements and from 5.0 to 5.8 for presentation. "We felt nervous. We really wanted to give our best and we hope to win a

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medal here in this event”, Tong said. “Tomorrow, it’s not just about the competition. We also want to show the audience that we improved artistically.”

Last year’s bronze medalists, Dan Zhang/Hao Zhang, were a strong third. The young team nailed perfect side by side triple toeloops, a triple throw Salchow and showed a one-armed lift in their inspiring performance to “Victory” by Bond. The judges awarded the 2001 World Junior champions marks as high as 5.7 for both required elements and presentation. “We are very happy to be here and to take part in this event”, Hao Zhang commented. “We still have to improve on details, but we did very well today, and we are very happy with it.”

Defending Four Continents silver medalists Anabelle Langlois/Patrice Archetto of Canada are currently standing in fourth place. They both touched down with their hands on the side by side triple toeloop.

The 2003 Four Continents Championships will continue tomorrow with the Original Dance, the Mens’ and the Pairs Free Program.

Results are attached. Live results are directly available from [www.isu.org](http://www.isu.org)

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2003 Four Continents Championships						
Ice Dancing						
Result						
FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	CD	OD	FD
1	Shae-Lynn BOURNE / Victor KRAATZ	CAN	0.4	1		
2	Naomi LANG / Peter TCHERNYSHEV	USA	0.8	2		
3	Marie-France DUBREUIL / Patrice LAUZON	CAN	1.2	3		
4	Tanith BELBIN / Benjamin AGOSTO	USA	1.6	4		
5	Megan WING / Aaron LOWE	CAN	2.0	5		
6	Melissa GREGORY / Denis PETUKHOV	USA	2.4	6		
7	Weina ZHANG / Xiaoming CAO	CHN	2.8	7		
8	Nozomi WATANABE / Akiyuki KIDO	JPN	3.2	8		
9	Rie ARIKAWA / Kenji MIYAMOTO	JPN	3.6	9		
10	Fang YANG / Chongbo GAO	CHN	4.0	10		
11	Xiaoyang YU / Chen WANG	CHN	4.4	11		
12	Olga AKIMOVA / Ramil SARKULOV	UZB	4.8	12		
13	Natalie BUCK / Trent NELSON-BOND	AUS	5.2	13		

2003 Four Continents Championships					
Pairs					
Result					
FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Xue SHEN / Hongbo ZHAO	CHN	0.5	1	
2	Qing PANG / Jian TONG	CHN	1.0	2	
3	Dan ZHANG / Hao ZHANG	CHN	1.5	3	
4	Anabelle LANGLOIS / Patrice ARCHETTO	CAN	2.0	4	
5	Tiffany SCOTT / Philip DULEBOHN	USA	2.5	5	
6	Yuko KAWAGUCHI / Alexander MARKUNTSOV	JPN	3.0	6	
7	Jacinthe LARIVIERE / Lenny FAUSTINO	CAN	3.5	7	
8	Kathryn ORSCHER / Garrett LUCASH	USA	4.0	8	
9	Rena INOUE / John BALDWIN, Jr.	USA	4.5	9	
10	Elizabeth PUTNAM / Sean WIRTZ	CAN	5.0	10	
11	Marina AGANINA / Artem KNYAZEV	UZB	5.5	11	

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## 2003 Four Continents Championships Ladies Result

FPI.	Name	Nat.	Points	SP	FS
1	Fumie SUGURI	JPN	0.5	1	
2	Shizuka ARAKAWA	JPN	1.0	2	
3	Yukari NAKANO	JPN	1.5	3	
4	Ann Patrice McDONOUGH	USA	2.0	4	
5	Amber CORWIN	USA	2.5	5	
6	Dan FANG	CHN	3.0	6	
7	Joannie ROCHETTE	CAN	3.5	7	
8	Jennifer ROBINSON	CAN	4.0	8	
9	Siyin SUN	CHN	4.5	9	
10	Miriam MANZANO	AUS	5.0	10	
11	Anastasia GIMAZETDINOVA	UZB	5.5	11	
12	Bit-Na PARK	KOR	6.0	12	
13	Yan LIU	CHN	6.5	13	
14	Annie BELLEMARE	CAN	7.0	14	
15	Young-Eun CHOI	KOR	7.5	15	
16	Joanne CARTER	AUS	8.0	16	
17	Shirene HUMAN	RSA	8.5	17	
18	Sarah-Yvonne PRYTULA	AUS	9.0	18	
19	Sun-Bin LEE	KOR	9.5	19	
20	Ana Cecilia CANTU	MEX	10.0	20	
21	Gladys OROZCO	MEX	10.5	21	
22	Abigail PIETERSEN	RSA	11.0	22	
23	Jenna-Anne BUYS	RSA	11.5	23	
24	Diane CHEN	TPE	12.0	24	
25	Shirley Hsin Hui TSAI	TPE	12.5	25	
26	Imelda-Rose HEGERTY	NZL	13.0	26	
27	Ingrid ROTH	MEX	13.5	27	