



Kailani Craine & James Min Bid Farewell

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..... ng downunder

ISU Junior Grand Prix Series Final

Torino Triumph For

Golubeva & Giotopoulos-Moore

Generation Next Dominate The Australian

National Championships

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Celebrates

The 2022/2023 International Season

ISU Grand Prix Series

Holly Harris & Jason Chan's Dance Debut

and much more

**SUMMER
2023**

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On the cover:

Australia's Holly Harris & Jason Chan perform their free dance at the 2022 ISU Grand Prix Series - Skate Canada International in Mississauga Ontario. The couple finished the event in eighth place.

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Welcome to our Summer 2023 edition.

By the time this issue is uploaded, the international skating calendar will be at exactly its half-way mark. Team Australia and Team New Zealand have been sending their top athletes around the world since August to compete both for precious ISU ranking points, and vital event experience against some tough and seasoned global rivals.

The renowned sports photographer, Robin Ritoss, kindly supplied us with stunning images of Australia's and New Zealand's representatives in action, from the various competitions she has covered to date this season.

Darian Kaptich (Senior Men's Singles) showcased his considerable performing skills at two events in the United States - the Philadelphia Summer International in Aston, Pennsylvania followed by the Cranberry Cup International in Norwood, Massachusetts. Meanwhile Victoria Alcantara (Senior Women's Singles) worked her elegance and artistry also at the Cranberry Cup, and the ISU Challenger Series – U.S. Figure Skating Classic in Lake Placid, New York.

New Zealand also sent Jocelyn Hong (Senior Women's Singles) to the Cranberry Open and the U.S. Figure Skating Classic. Their Senior Ice Dancing Champions, Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Richard Kang In Kam competed in Lake Placid as well.

Two years ago, Holly Harris & Jason Chan were slated to compete at the 2020 ISU Grand Prix Series – Skate Canada International. Unfortunately, COVID-19 caused

the event's imminent cancellation. The crushing blow of that disappointment was replaced with unbridled joy when the pair were invited to not one, but two ISU Grand Prix Series events (Skate America in Norwood and Skate Canada in Mississauga, Ontario).

This was also a year for saying goodbye. Two popular singles skating veterans of the international and championship circuits, decided to announce their respective exits from the sport. After competing on the scene for almost a decade, Kailani Craine and James Min each posted emotional farewell messages on social media for their countless friends, fans, and followers from around the world.

It was no accident that their shared departures, were timed with the 2022 Australian Figure Skating Championships in Brisbane, Queensland. Twice cancelled due to the pandemic, it was encouraging to witness such a high standard of skating coupled with so many new names and faces.

Building on their silver medal win at the World Junior Championships last year, Australia's Anastasia Golubeva and Hektor Giotopoulos-Moore went one better this year with three successive ISU Junior Grand Prix Series pairs' victories at the Baltic Cup and the Solidarity Cup (both in Gdansk, Poland) and the Series Final in Torino, Italy.

Happy browsing.

Nick Pilgrim
aussieSKATES
Summer 2023

in this issue

2 Our 2023 Welcome Message

3 Celebrating the 2022/23 Season

Follow Team Australia's and Team New Zealand's Competitive Journey In Photographs

32 Harris & Chan's ISU Grand Prix Debut

Holly Harris & Jason Chan compete at Skate America and Skate Canada for the first time in their short career together.

41 Kailani Craine & James Min bid farewell to eligible competition

48 Generation Next dominate Nationals

49 Sportrait - Torino Triumph

Anastasia Golubeva & Hektor Giotopoulos-Moore skate undefeated so far this season.

Follow Team Australia's and Team New Zealand's competitive journey in photographs.

Robin Ritoss is a highly-respected figure skating photographer with a wealth of professional experience.

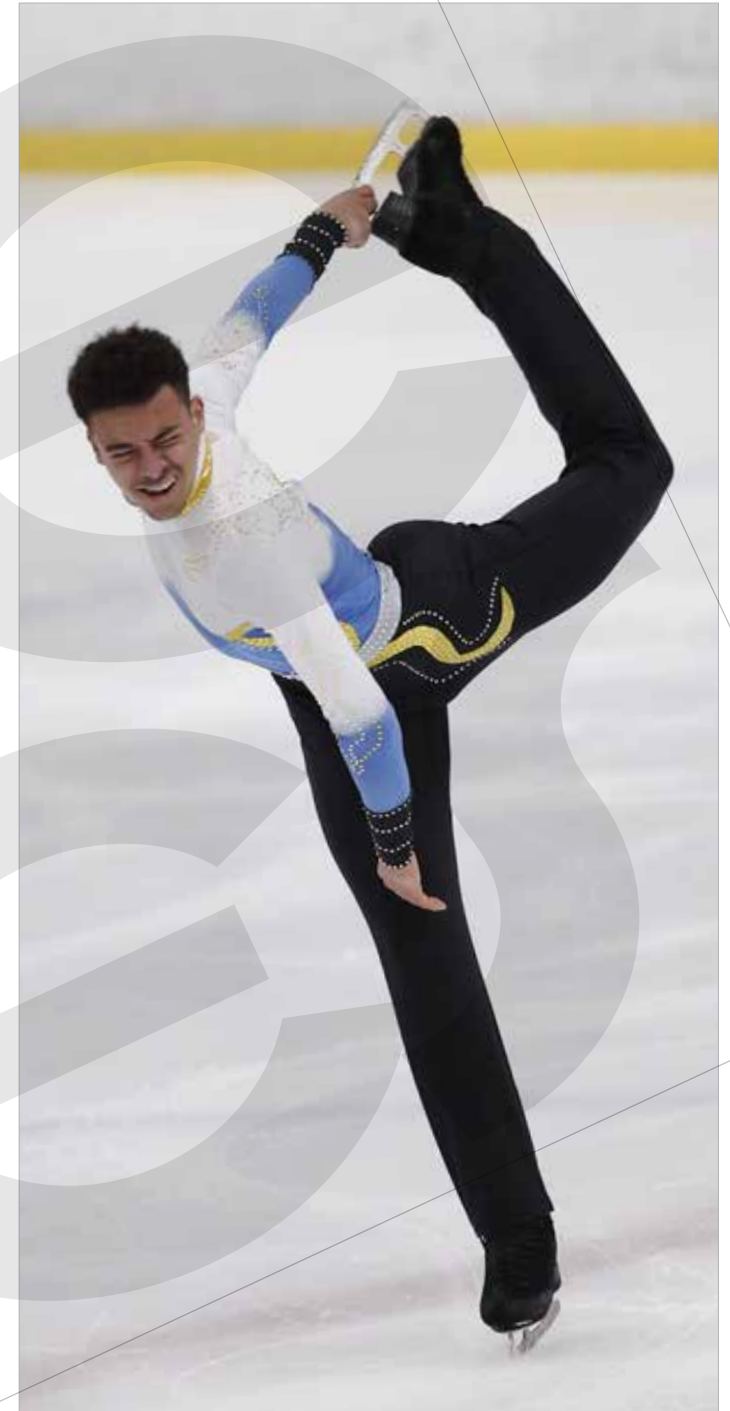
Based in the U.S.A, she has shot countless assignments at the national, international, and championship level.

Robin has kindly allowed **aussieSKATES:Figure Skating DownUnder** permission to publish highlights of her sporting year so far, which we are showcasing here for our fans, friends and followers to enjoy.

These eligible competitive events include the 2022 Cranberry Cup International, 2022 ISU Challenger Series - U.S. International Figure Skating Classic, 2022 ISU Grand Prix Series - Skate America, 2022 ISU Grand Prix Series - Skate Canada International, and the 2022 ISU Grand Prix Series - Junior Final.



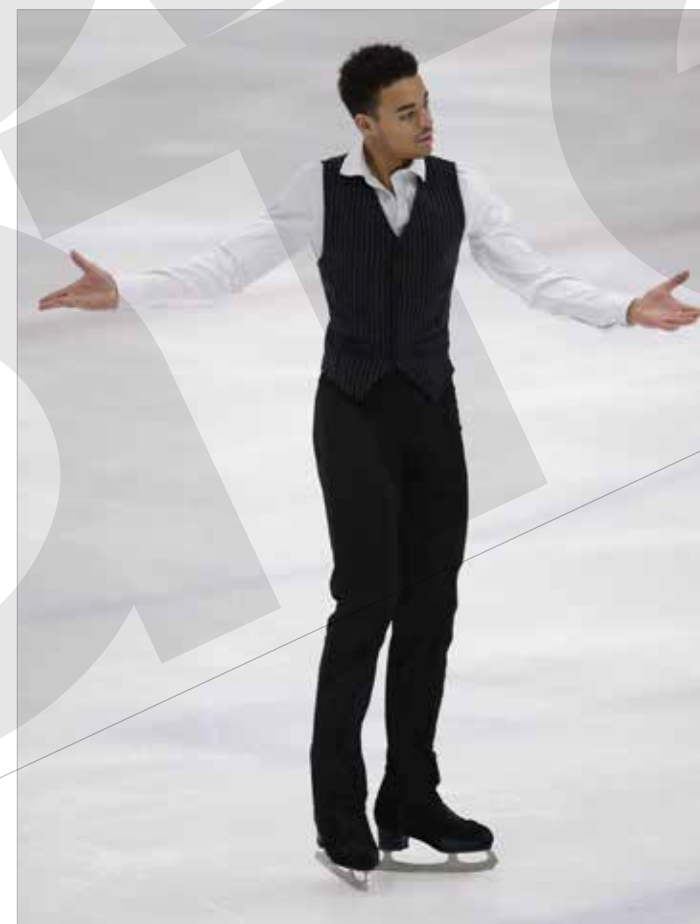
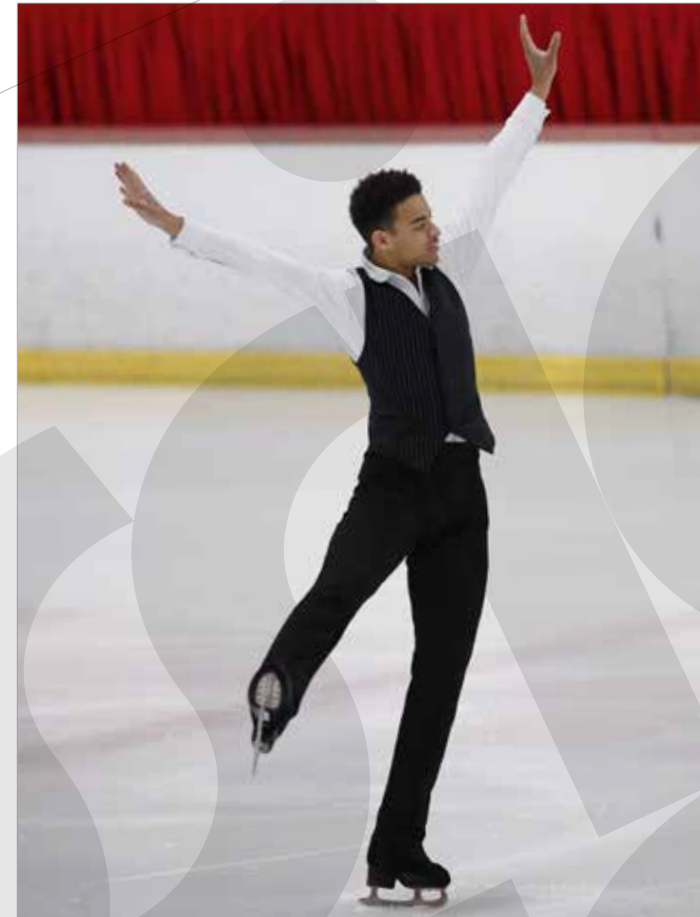
Left to Right: Darian Kaptich • Victoria Alcantara • Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Richard Kang In Kam • Anastasia Golubeva & Hektor Giotopoulos-Moore • Holly Harris & Jason Chan



DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM



DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM



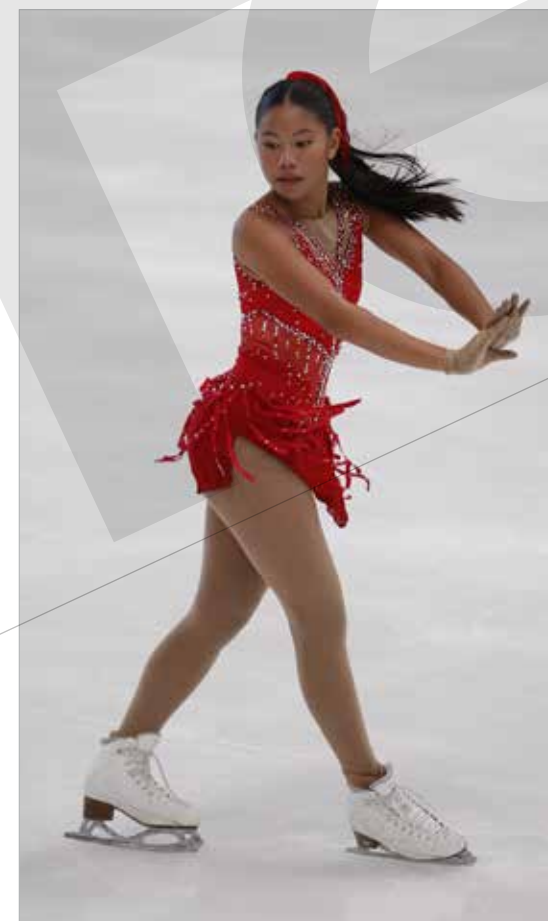
DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

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DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

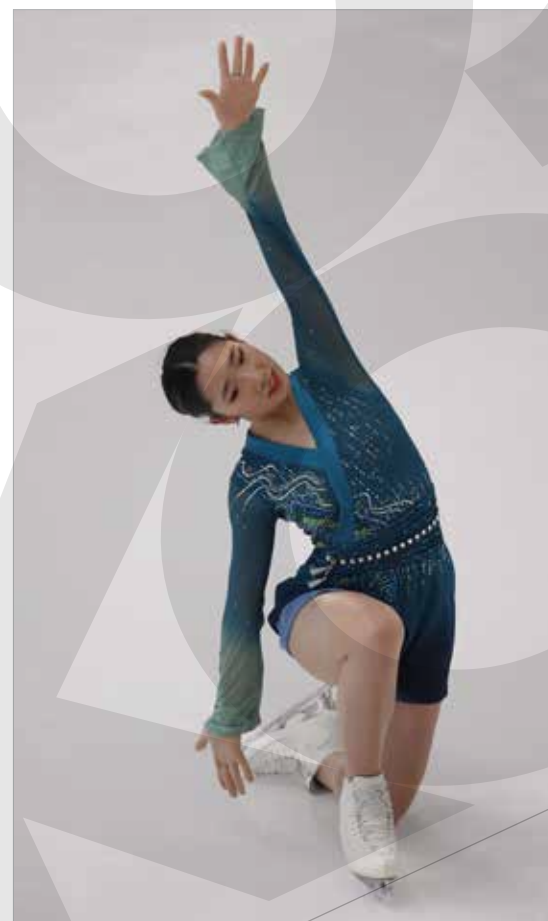
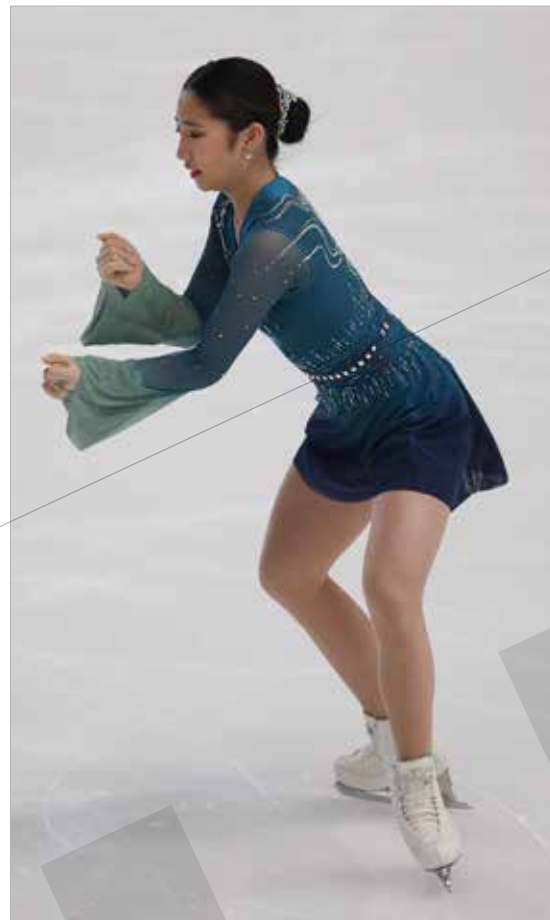
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**VICTORIA ALCANTARA /
AUSTRALIA**
WOMEN'S SINGLES
SHORT PROGRAM

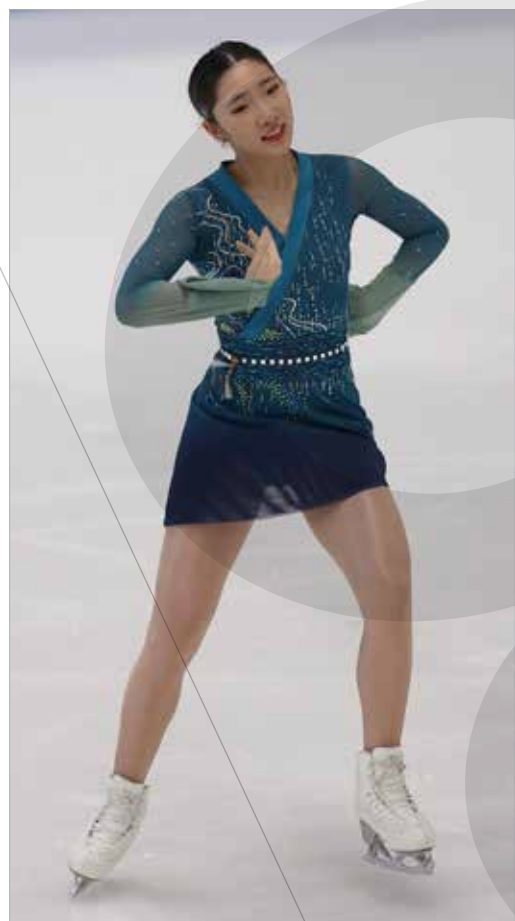


VICTORIA ALCANTARA / AUSTRALIA
WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM



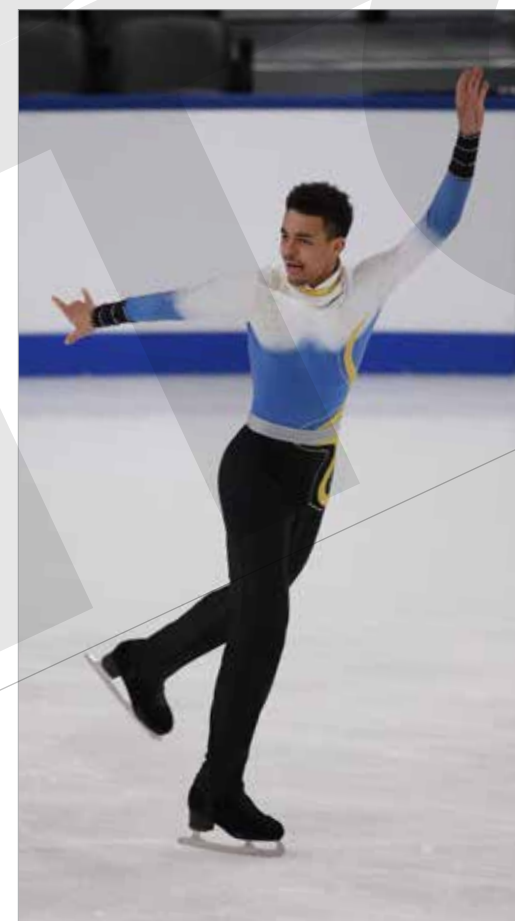
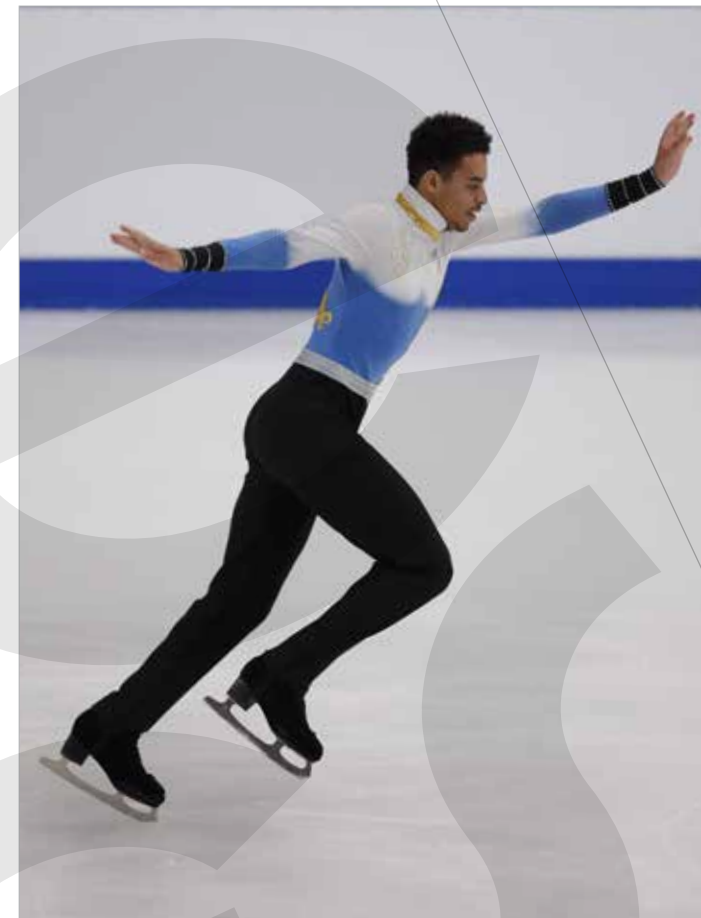
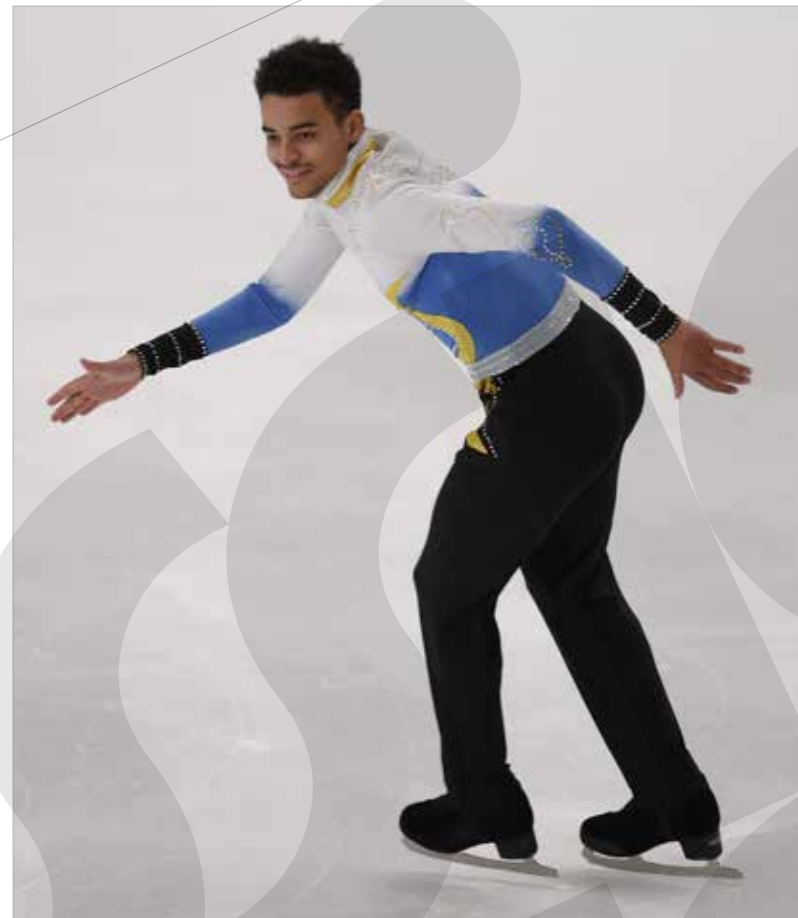
**JOCELYN HONG /
NEW ZEALAND**

WOMEN'S SINGLES
SHORT PROGRAM



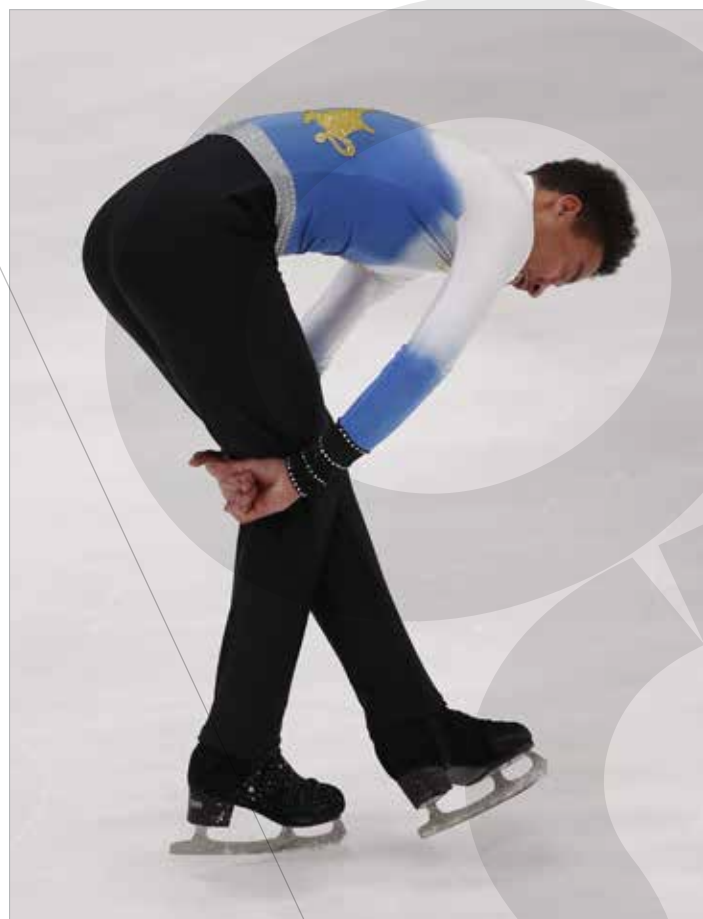
JOCELYN HONG / NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM

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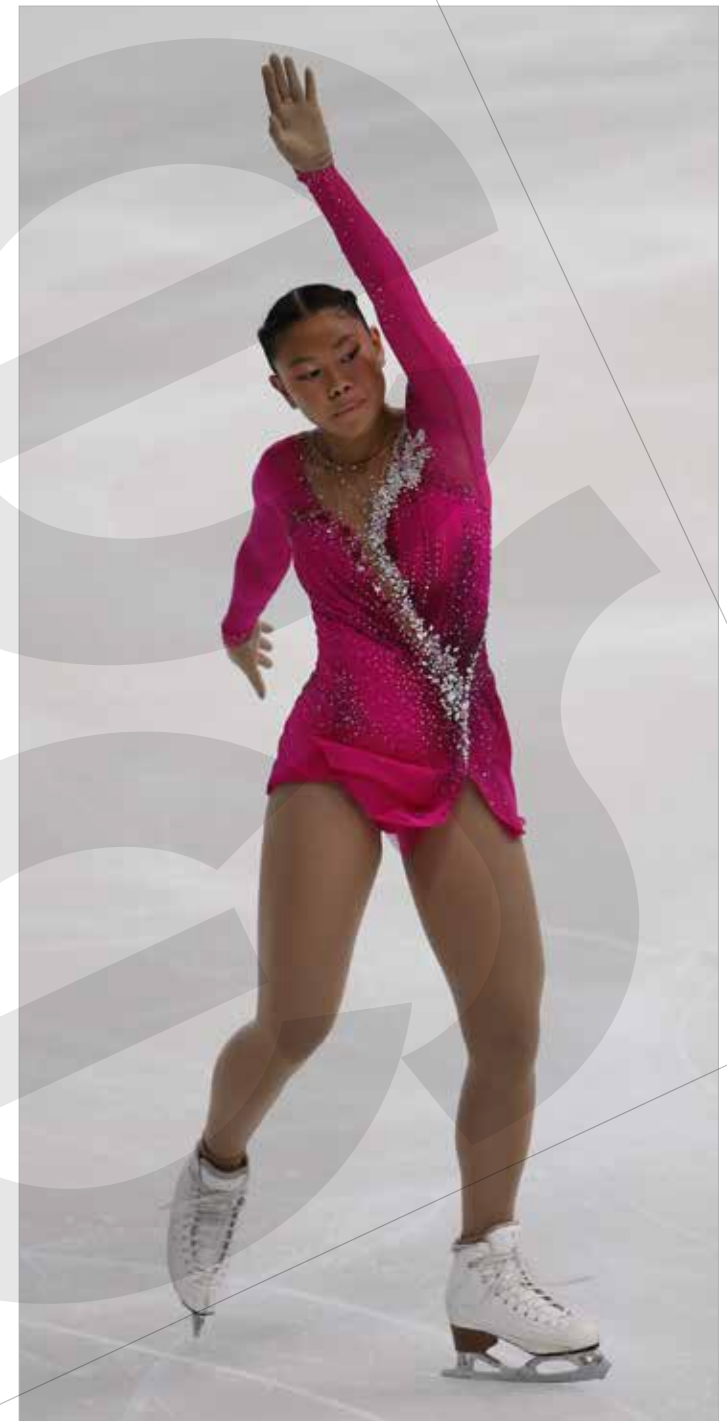


DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM

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DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM



VICTORIA ALCANTARA / AUSTRALIA
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

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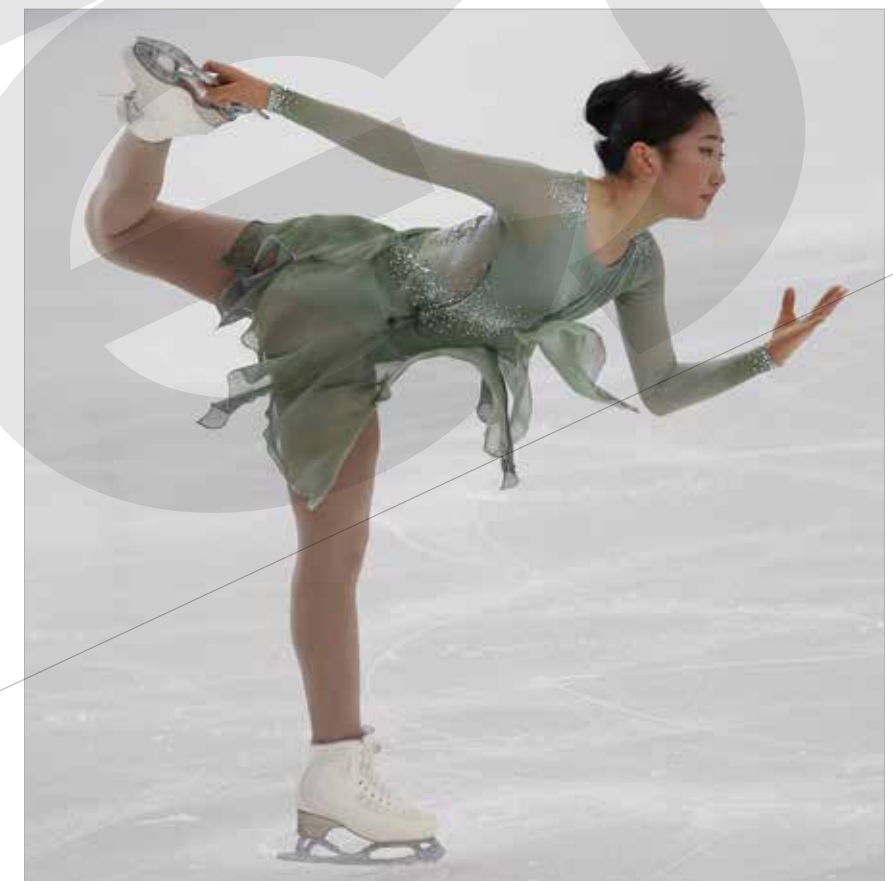
VICTORIA ALCANTARA / AUSTRALIA
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

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JOCELYN HONG / NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

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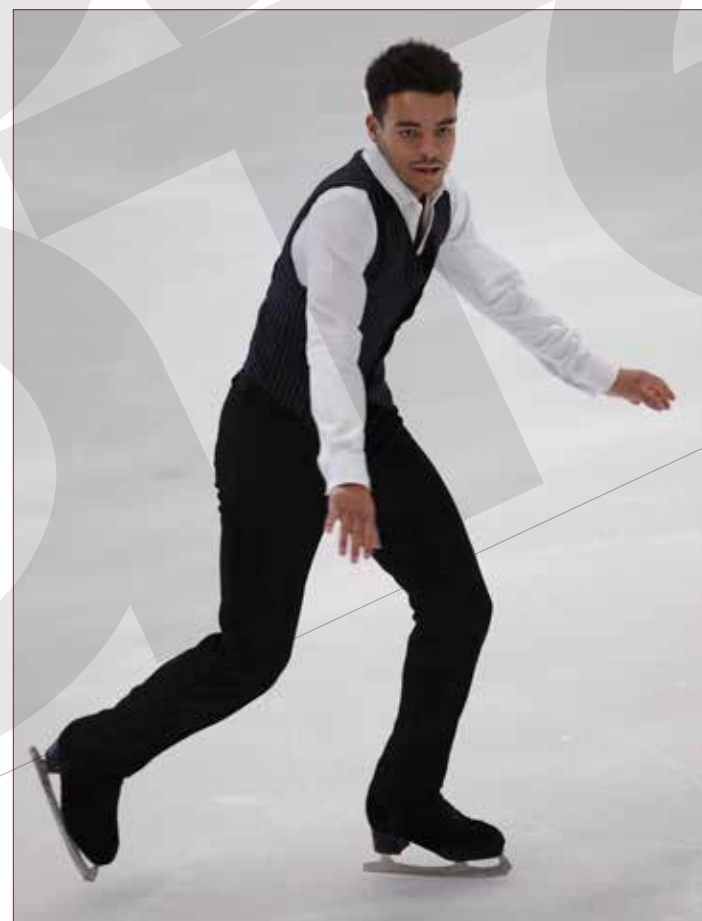


JOCELYN HONG / NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

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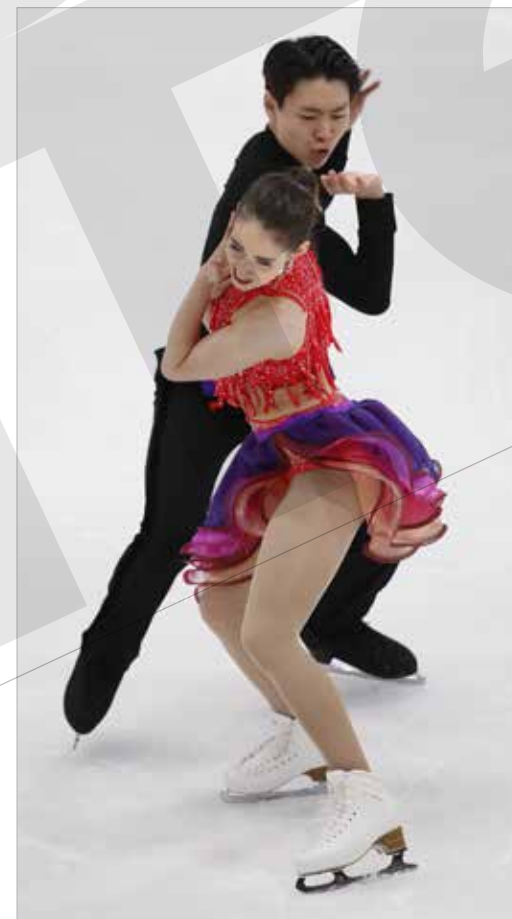
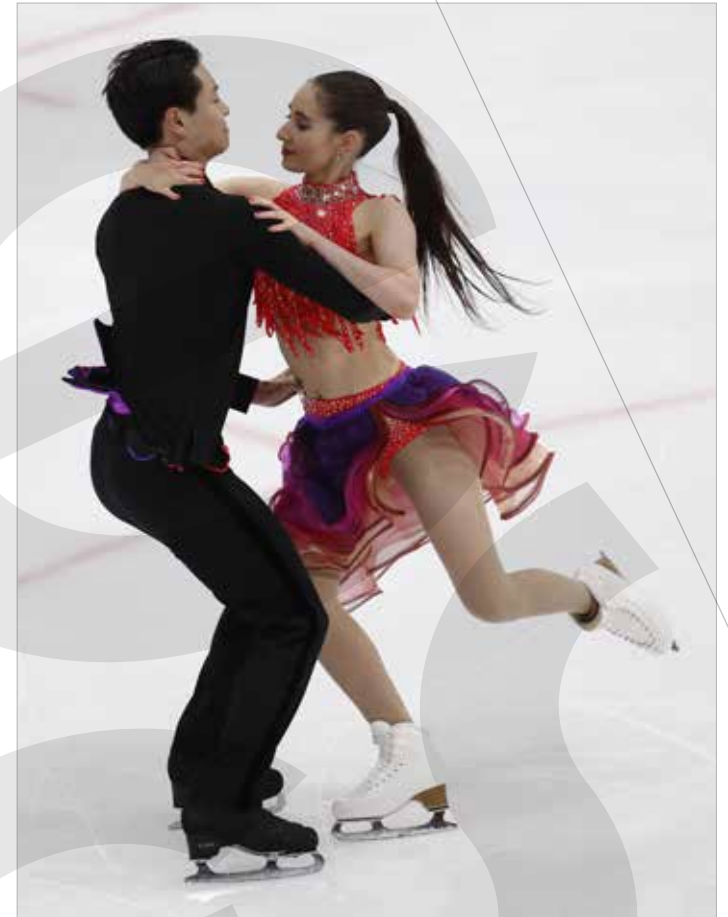


DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

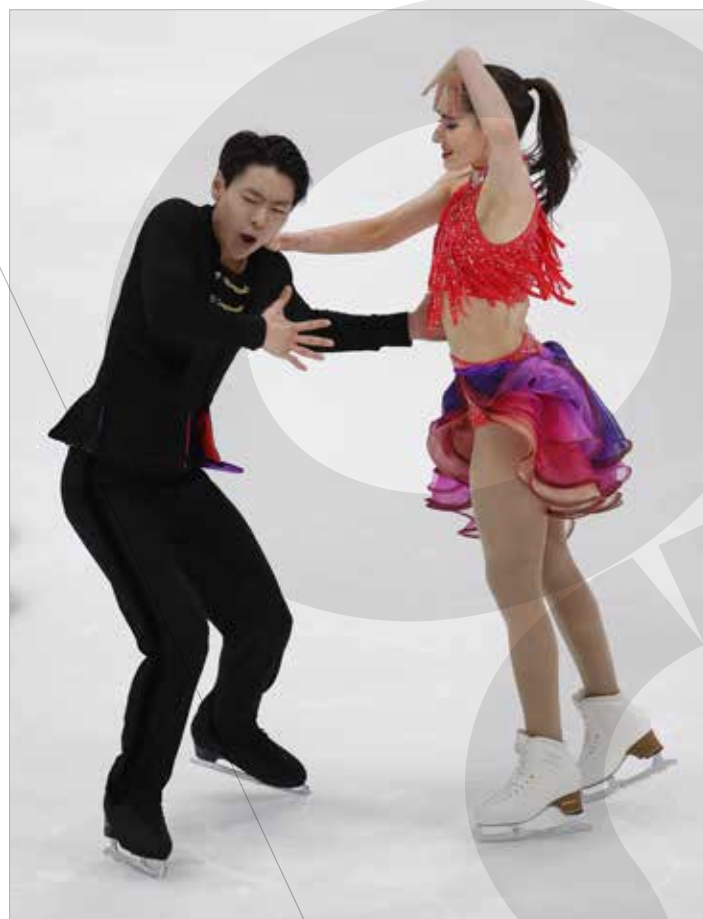


DARIAN KAPTICH / AUSTRALIA
MEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

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**CHARLOTTE LAFOND - FOURNIER
& RICHARD KANG-IN KAM /
NEW ZEALAND**
RHYTHM DANCE

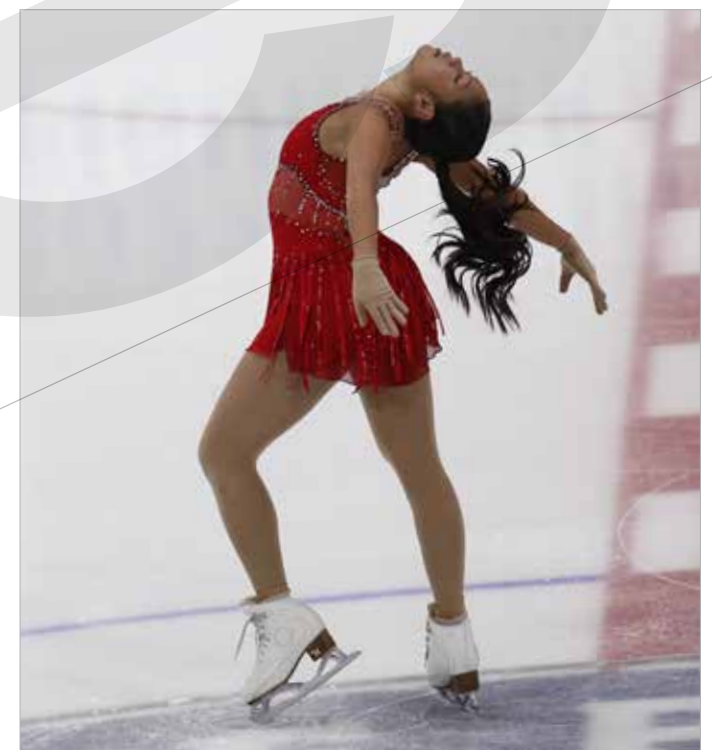


**CHARLOTTE LAFOND - FOURNIER
& RICHARD KANG-IN KAM /
NEW ZEALAND**
RHYTHM DANCE

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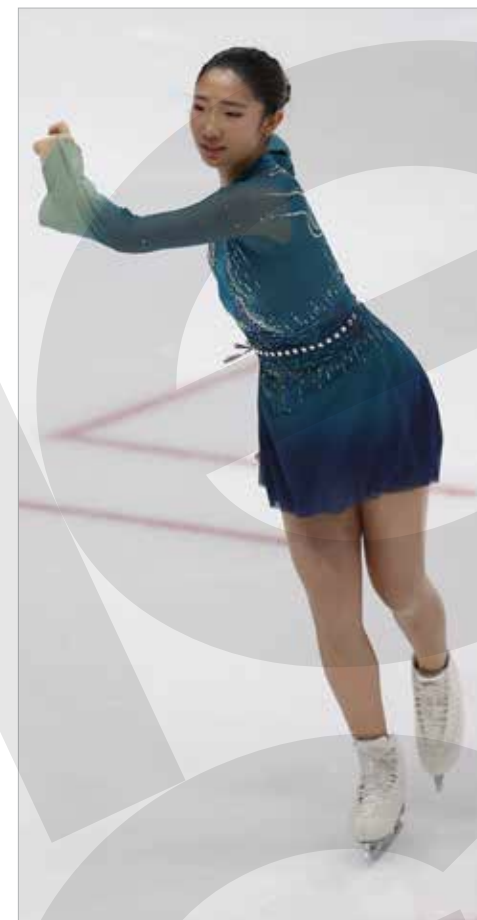


VICTORIA ALCANTARA / AUSTRALIA
WOMEN'S SINGLES
SHORT PROGRAM



VICTORIA ALCANTARA / AUSTRALIA
WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM

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JOCELYN HONG / NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM

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JOCELYN HONG / NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM

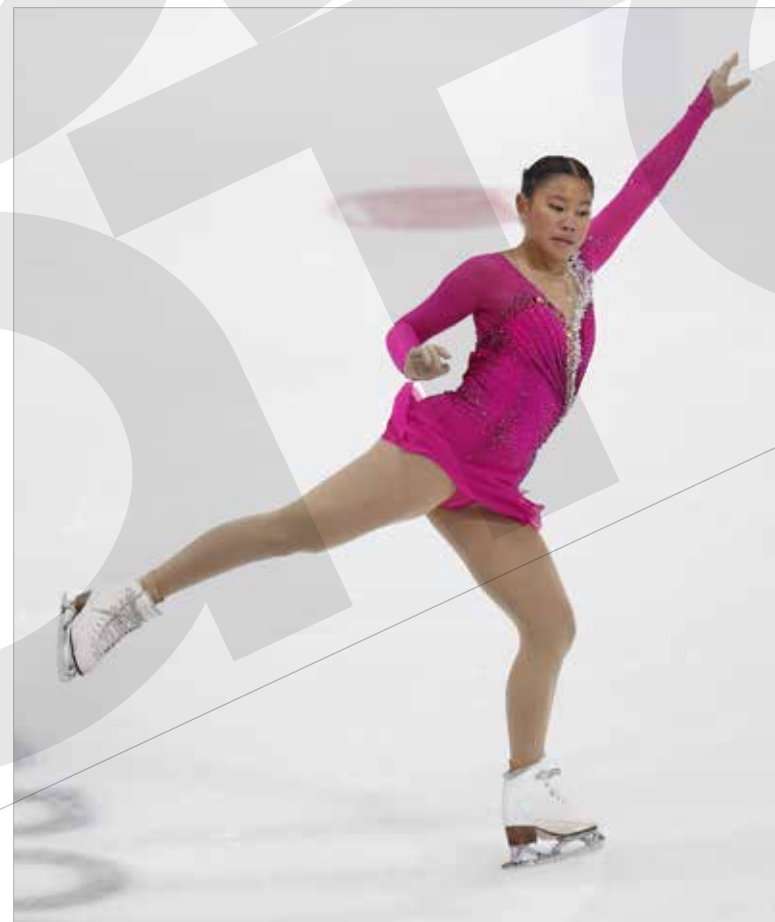


**CHARLOTTE LAFOND - FOURNIER
& RICHARD KANG-IN KAM /
NEW ZEALAND**
FREE DANCE

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**CHARLOTTE LAFOND - FOURNIER
& RICHARD KANG-IN KAM /
NEW ZEALAND**
FREE DANCE



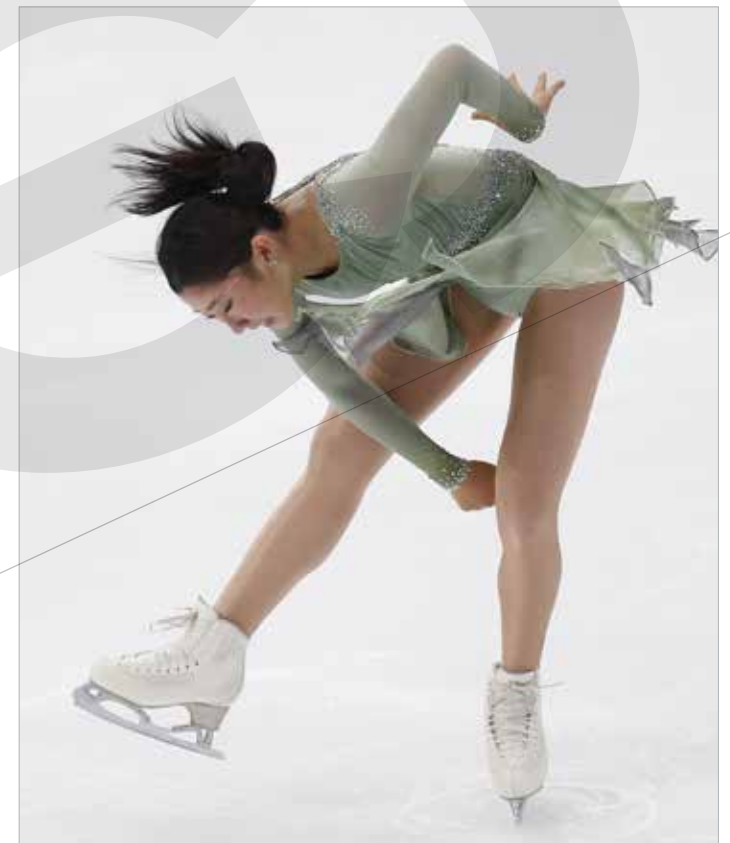
VICTORIA ALCANTARA / AUSTRALIA
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE



VICTORIA ALCANTARA / AUSTRALIA
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE



JOCELYN HONG / NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE



JOCELYN HONG / NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

Holly Harris & Jason Chan / Team Australia

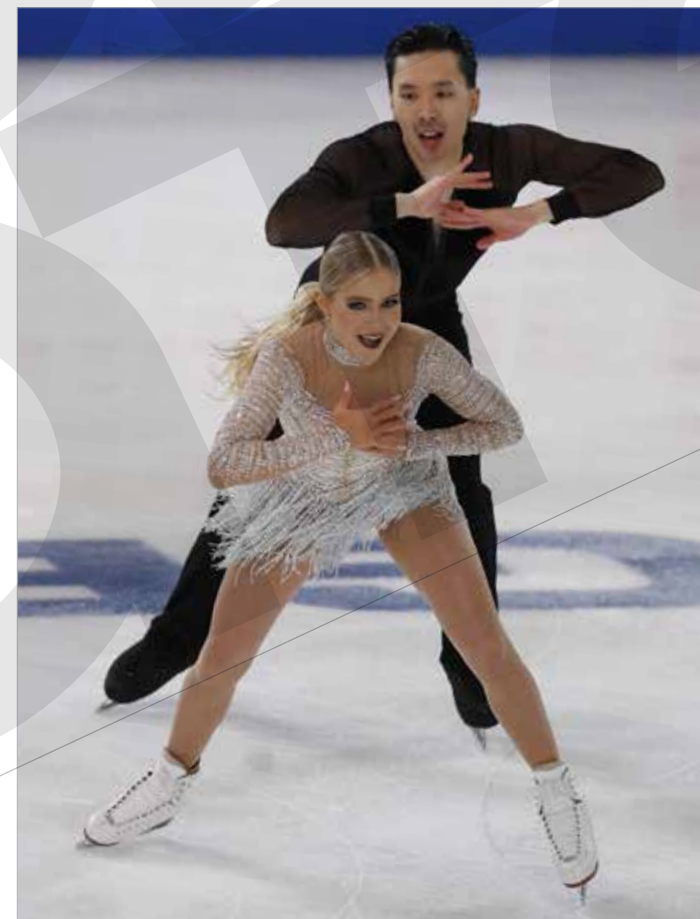
A talented couple on the ascent, Holly Harris & Jason Chan made their competitive debut in 2019. Defeating a trio of experienced local teams, success came early with the senior crown at their first Australian Figure Skating Championships in Melbourne, Victoria. Later that season, they were invited to represent Australia at the Four Continents Championships in Seoul, South Korea, followed by the World Championships in Montreal, Canada. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the latter to be cancelled. Later in 2020, the pair were added to the roster at the ISU Grand Prix - Skate Canada International. Sadly, that event was also scrapped.

Before she teamed up with Chan, Harris was a successful singles' skater known for her elegant artistry. She even represented Australia on the Junior Grand Prix Series circuit, as well as at the 2017 World Junior Figure Skating Championships. After switching to dance, Harris has never looked back. The couple also train in Montreal at IAM (or the Ice Academy of Montreal). Operated by Marie-France Dubreuil, Patrice Lauzon, and Romain Haguenauer, it is home to numerous champions from around the world including the current Olympic Champions, Gabrielle Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France.

Making the free dance final at the 2022 World Championships, helped secure Harris & Chan the ranking points needed to gain invitation to the ISU Grand Prix Series. After securing a berth to Skate Canada, a late withdrawal from another couple gave the Australians a second shot at Skate America one week earlier.

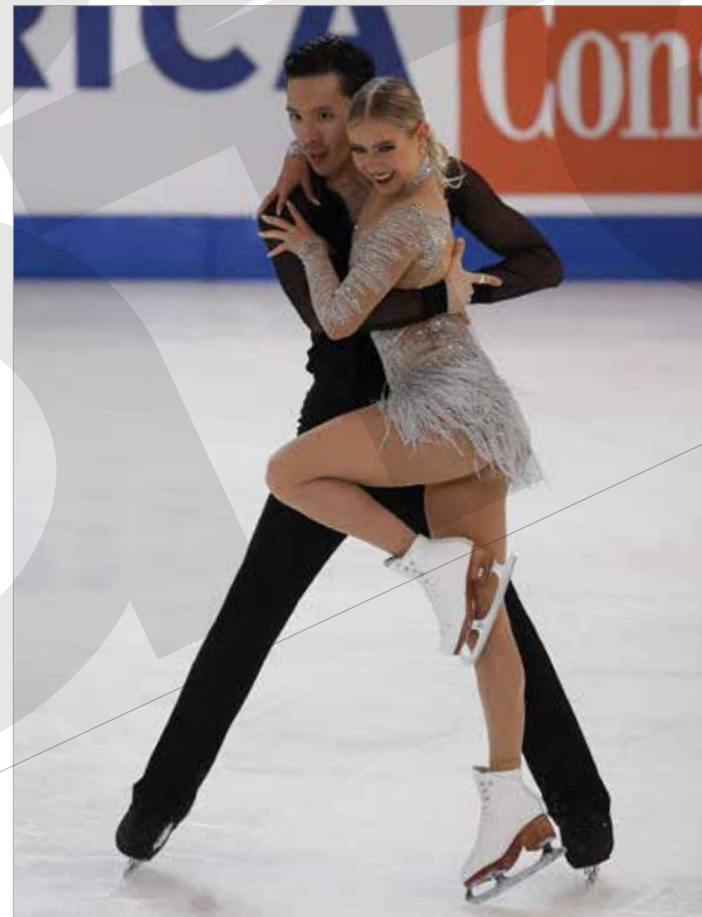
A personal highlight from the event was breaking 70 points in the Rhythm Dance for the first time in their short career together, as well as a successful fifth place finish overall.



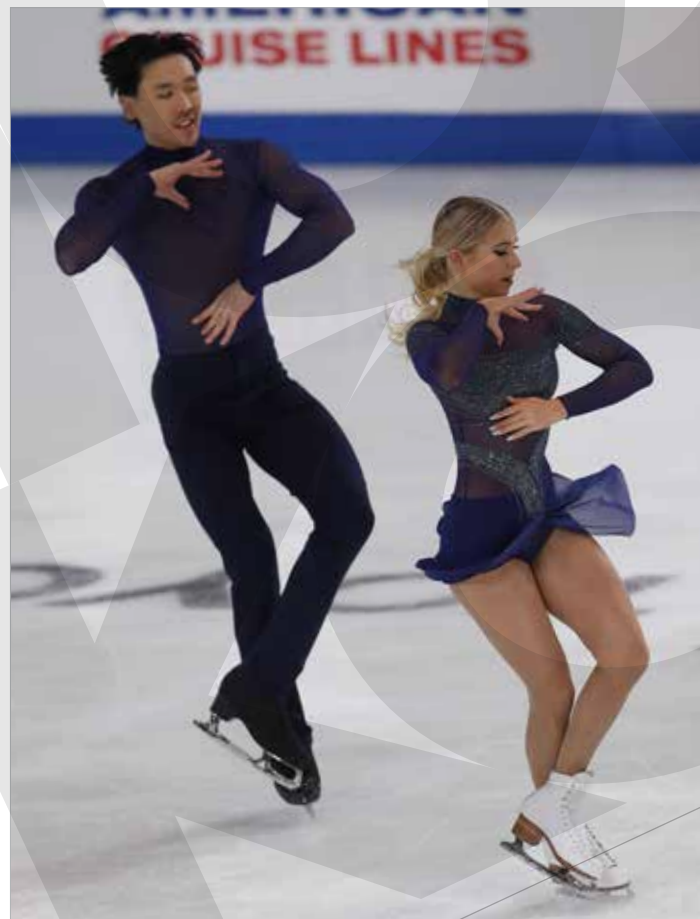
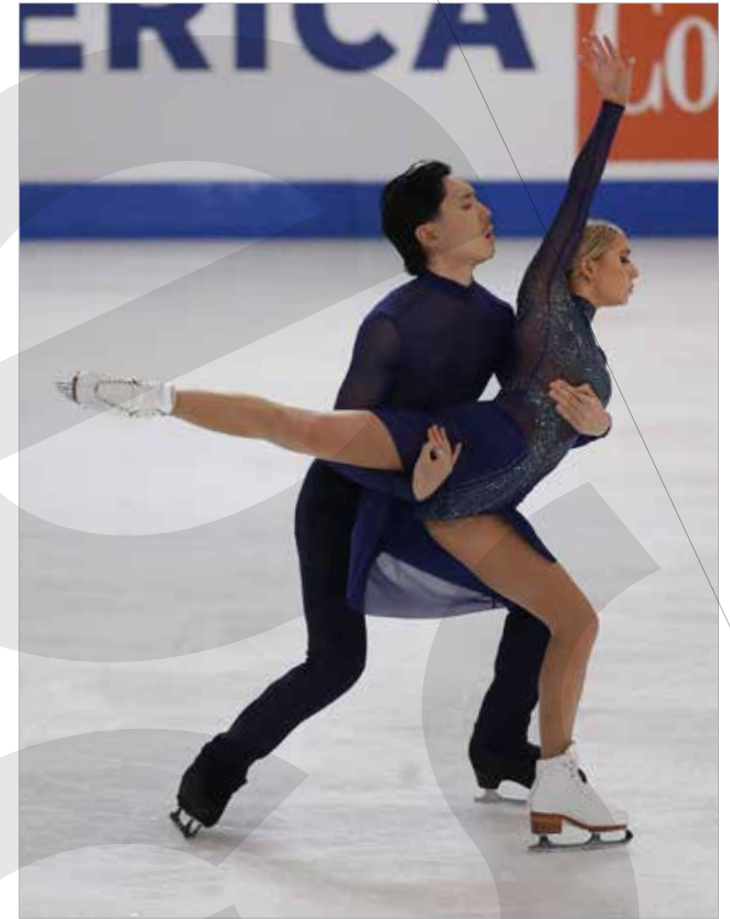


**HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA**
RHYTHM DANCE

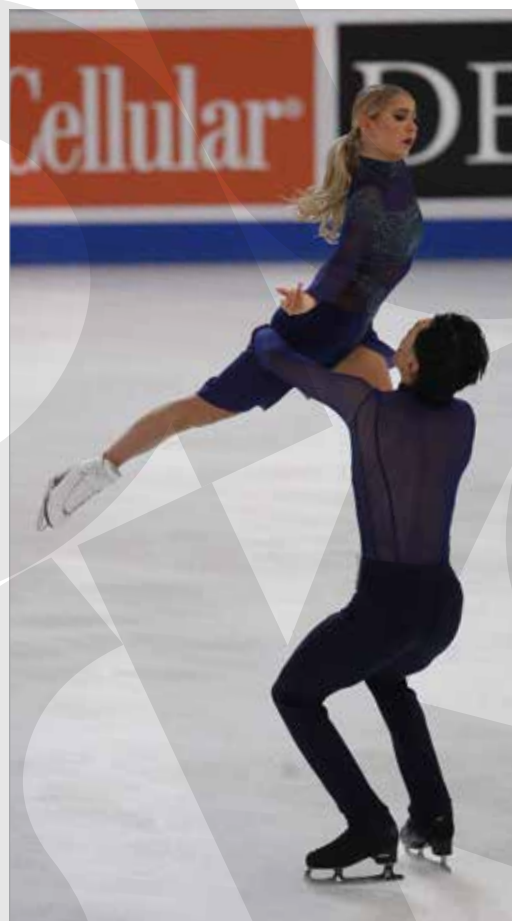
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**HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA**
RHYTHM DANCE



**HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA**
FREE DANCE



**HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA**
FREE DANCE



HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA
RHYTHM DANCE



**HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA**
RHYTHM DANCE



HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA
FREE DANCE



**HOLLY HARRIS & JASON CHAN /
AUSTRALIA**
FREE DANCE

Kailani Craine / Team Australia

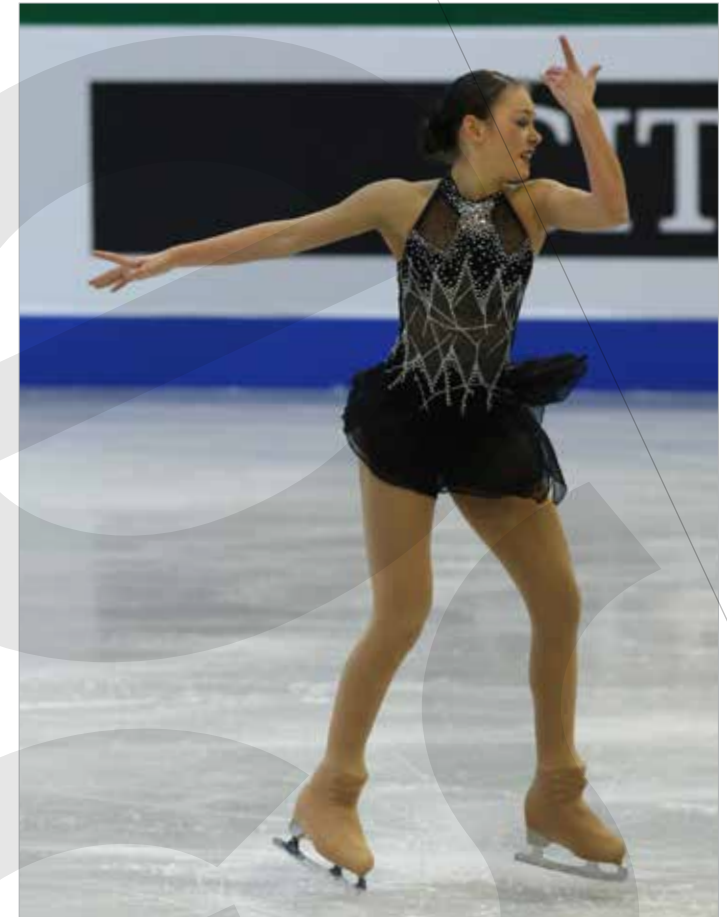
Timing her exit parallel with the 2022 National Figure Skating Championships running in Brisbane last December, Australia's Kailani Craine announced her retirement from competitive women's singles skating. A fantastic ambassador for the sport, Craine's numerous competitive achievements speak for themselves:

- 2 - Time Olympic Winter Games Team Member (2018 & 2022)
- 6 - Time World Championships Team Member
- 7 - Time Four Continents Team Member
- 2 - Time World Junior Championships Team Member
- 4 - Time ISU Grand Prix Series Representative
- 4 - Time ISU Junior Grand Prix Series Representative
- 12 - Time ISU Challenger Series Representative
- 14 - Time International Competition Representative
- 6 - Time National Senior Women's Champion of Australia
- 4 - Time National Junior Women's Champion of Australia

Kailani mentioned on Instagram that she is focussing her attention on building future champions by creating skating dreams for others, as well as studying law and news media. Her dream one day is to also be behind the microphone talking about the sport she loves with a passion.

Following is a selection captured by Robin Ritoss of Craine through the years in international competition.





**2014 ISU WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
SOFIA, BULGARIA**
JUNIOR WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM

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**2015 ISU JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, U.S.A.**
JUNIOR WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM
JUNIOR WOMEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE



XXIV 2022 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
BEIJING, CHINA
WOMEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM

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James Min / Team Australia

In an emotional goodbye, Australia's James Min uploaded a detailed post via social media during the 2022 National Figure Skating Championships in Brisbane, Queensland.

Late last year, like fellow athlete Kailani Craine had officially stated several days prior on Instagram, Min also announced his departure from eligible singles competition. Popular around the world for his entertaining style, Min's sporting achievements speak for themselves:

- 2 – Time Four Continents Team Member
- 4 – Time World Junior Championships Team Member
- 8 – Time ISU Junior Grand Prix Series Representative
- 4 – Time ISU Challenger Series Representative
- 4 – Time International Competition Representative
- 2 – Time National Senior Men's Medallist
- 3 – Time National Junior Men's Champion of Australia

Following is a selection captured by Robin Ritoss of Min through the years in international competition.



PHOTO GALLERY • JAMES MIN IN COMPETITION



2015 ISU JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, U.S.A.
JUNIOR MEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM
JUNIOR MEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

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PHOTO GALLERY • JAMES MIN IN COMPETITION



2022 ISU FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS
TALLINN, ESTONIA
MEN'S SINGLES SHORT PROGRAM
MEN'S SINGLES FREE SKATE

Generation Next dominate the 2022 Australian National Figure Skating Championships

With a general sense of excitement, Australia's competitive skating schedule returned full-steam in 2022. Meaning for the first time since 2019, the world's biggest island was able to host its annual National Figure Skating Championships in Brisbane, Queensland. Over two straight years, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the event from being postponed twice in a row. From November 25 to December 2, Iceworld in Boondall rolled out the red carpet for hundreds of athletes in multiple Olympic Elite and Adult Masters divisions. Several absences due to injury and notable retirements over the past season or so did not detract from an outstanding week of competition, with a number of titles changing hands across the board.

Some of the many rising stars to watch for current and future reference include:

- Darian Kaptich and Charleton Doherty (for taking first and second in Senior Men's Singles respectively on home ice), and Callum Bradshaw's gritty third place after losing almost two years of consistent training time due to the pandemic
- Vlada Vasiliev (winner of the Senior Women's Singles title)
- India Nette & Eron Westwood (for claiming their first Senior Ice Dance crown)
- Julio Potapenko (by running away with the Junior Men's Singles gold medal)
- Sienna Kaczmarczyk (for showcasing her dynamic presentation in the Junior Women's Singles category) and in the same event, Simona Bhasin for her elegant artistry
- Hana Bath (the pre-teen sensation with every triple jump in her repertoire, taking the Junior Women's Singles title and placing a close second in the Senior Women's Singles division as well.)

The full list of results online may be found at https://isq.org.au/resultsafsc/2022_AFSC/index.htm

Watching the stored recording may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiWIKLBQeW5TCjVWyhVWSrbFRIRa3gt0D>



Left to Right: Sienna Kaczmarczyk • Hana Bath • Callum Bradshaw • Simona Bhasin (with her coach, Vashti Lonsdale) • Charleton Doherty. **Note:** Photographs shot during the 2022 Crystal Challenge at the Docklands Icehouse in Melbourne.

Anastasia Golubeva & Hektor Giotopoulos-Moore / Team Australia

ISU JUNIOR GRAND PRIX SERIES FINAL GOLD MEDALISTS

Hot off their surprise silver medals at the 2022 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships last March in Tallinn, Estonia, this young pair have since gone from strength to strength.

When the ISU Grand Prix Series nominations were announced in late June, Australia's Golubeva & Giotopoulos-Moore earned berths at two of these prestigious invitation-only events. Book ending the series' six stops, Skate America would be held in Norwood, Massachusetts from October 21 to 23, while the Espoo Trophy was scheduled to run from November 25 to 27.

One of the drawbacks of being age-eligible for both junior and senior competition, is that athletes may only skate at either the ISU Junior or Senior Grand Prix Series in any given season. Not both.

To secure as many points as possible and improve their international ranking, the team made a tactical decision to return to the Junior Grand Prix Series for a second run. The choice paid off with triumphs at back-to-back events (The Solidarity Cup and The Baltic Cup) held in Gdansk, Poland. These victories guaranteed Golubeva & Giotopoulos-Moore a place in the Junior Final, which would be held from December 8 – 11 in Torino, Italy.

In the meantime, they continued their winning streak at the ISU Challenger Series – Warsaw Cup. Returning to Poland, this time the team skated against and beat tough senior competition from Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy.

At the Junior Final, the team performed an uncharacteristically shaky short program and found themselves in second place behind Sophia Baram and Daniel Tiuumentsev of the U.S.A. Pulling out all the stops, Golubeva & Giotopoulos-Moore dug deep and skated a flawless free skate to claim the title. The official commentator for the event, Ted Barton, said of their victory, they could have placed well in the senior pairs' final, too.





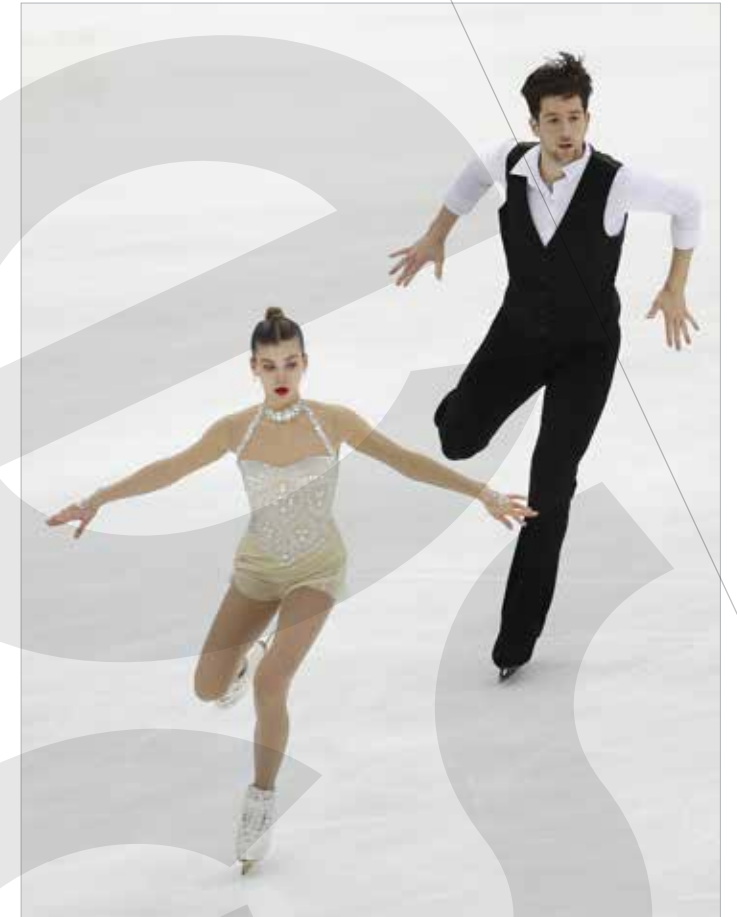
**ANASTASIA GOLUBEVA &
HEKTOR GIOTOPOULOUS - MOORE /
AUSTRALIA**

JUNIOR PAIRS' SHORT PROGRAM



**ANASTASIA GOLUBEVA & HEKTOR GIOTOPOULOUS - MOORE /
AUSTRALIA**

JUNIOR PAIRS' SHORT PROGRAM



**ANASTASIA GOLUBEVA &
HEKTOR GIOTOPOULOUS - MOORE /
AUSTRALIA**

JUNIOR PAIRS' FREE SKATE

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**ANASTASIA GOLUBEVA &
HEKTOR GIOTOPOULOS - MOORE /
AUSTRALIA**

JUNIOR PAIRS' FREE SKATE



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