

## Sports

# Osmond snatches world gold as Olympic champion Zagitova crashes

## Chen hits record six quads to win world gold

MILAN: Canada's Kaetlyn Osmond snatched gold as Olympic champion Alina Zagitova crashed to fifth in a drama-filled women's free skate final at the world figure skating championships on Friday. Osmond—the Olympic bronze medalist—pulled out a flawless free skate to 'Black Swan' to surge from fourth after the short programme to her first world title with a total score of 223.23 points.

"I still can't quite believe it," said the 22-year-old from Edmonton who becomes the first Canadian woman since Karen Magnussen in 1973 to stand on the top of the world podium. "Being the world champion is not something I ever expected." Japanese skaters Wakaba Higuchi (210.90) and Satoko Miyahara (210.08) took silver and bronze respectively.

American quad-jumping prodigy Nathan Chen matched his record of six quads at the Olympics to win men's gold in the world figure skating championships yesterday. The 18-year-old from Salt Lake City was the only skater in the final group to stay on his feet, blowing away his rivals with a winning margin of 47.63 points. His free skate to "Mao's Last Dancer" by Christopher Gordon earned him 219.46 points for an overall total of 321.40.

Japan's Shoma Uno took silver despite falling three times in the free skating final, scoring 273.77. Mikhail Kolyada, 272.32, also fell twice but took bronze as weary skaters struggled in the final event of the season. Chen—the ISU Grand Prix final champion—returns the United States to the world podium for the first time since 2009 when Evan Lysacek won gold.

Zagitova fell three times during her four minutes free dance set to Austrian composer Ludwig Minkus's score to the ballet Don Quixote. It spoiled the 15-year-old's bid for a golden finale to her senior debut season in which she had won the ISU Grand Prix Final, the

European and Olympic titles.

She collapsed in tears as she left the ice and fell into the arms of her coach Eteri Tutberidze who comforted her. Italy's Carolina Kostner, who had been leading after the short programme, fell to fourth after also crashing in her skate to Debussy's 'L'apres-midi d'un faune'.

The home hope had been bidding to bring the curtain down on her 14-year world career with a second title after 2012. "This fourth has a bitter taste," said 31-year-old Kostner. Higuchi, 17, moved up from eighth after the short programme with Miyahara, 19, holding her third position.

"At most other competitions I have cried at the end but this time there was no need to cry," said Higuchi who placed 11th at worlds last year. Two-time holder Evgenia Medvedeva did not defend her title after her silver behind Zagitova at the Olympics in South Korea with an injury.

Earlier French ice dancers Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron suffered no costume slip this time as they put themselves on course for a third world title. With a new world record of 83.73 points in the short dance, the 2015 and 2016 world champions led Americans Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue (80.42) and Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje (78.31).

The French lost their world title last year to Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir and finished second again behind the Canadians in the Pyeongchang Olympic Games after a "nightmare" wardrobe malfunction when Papadakis's costume became unclipped during the short programme, exposing a breast.

"I went back to Montreal. I fixed a couple of things on my dress to make sure it wouldn't be able to come apart or open in any way ... and it didn't!" said



## Japan's Shoma Uno took silver despite falling three times



MILAN: (L to R) Silver medal, Wakaba Higuchi from Japan, Gold medal, Kaetlyn Osmond from Canada and Bronze medal Satoko Miyahara from Japan during the medal ceremony of the Ladies Free Skating at the Milano World Figure Skating Championship 2018, in Milan, on Friday.— AFP

Papadakis. "It's true that after the movement which unclipped my dress at the Olympics, I said to myself: 'Ouf, it's good, my dress is still on!'. I had a little half-second thought about it."

Dancing to a Samba-Rhumba-Samba routine to Ed Sheeran's 'Shape Of You' and 'Thinking Out Loud' they bettered the previous best short dance score of 83.67 achieved by Virtue and Moir at the Olympics. The Canadians are not defending their world title this week.

The Canadian-based French dancers will look to seal gold in Saturday's free dance final to Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata". US champions Hubbell and Donohue, targeting their first world podium after finishing fourth at the Olympics, also posted a career best score, as did Weaver and Poje—former world medallists.

Italians Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte—the 2014 world champions—are less than point further back in fourth place. — AFP

## Pastrnak caps Bruins rally to beat Dallas

DALLAS: David Pastrnak scored with 11.1 seconds left in regulation, and Brad Marchand collected one goal and three points as the Boston Bruins scored three unanswered goals in the third period to beat the host Dallas Stars 3-2 Friday. Just as it appeared the game was headed to overtime, Marchand dished the puck down low to Pastrnak, who worked around Dallas goalie Kari Lehtonen before burying a shot. Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask made 40 saves as the undermanned Bruins snapped a two-game losing skid without forwards Patrice Bergeron, David Backes and Rick Nash and defenseman Zdeno Chara, Charlie McAvoy and Torey Krug, among others. It was a painful defeat for the Stars, who returned home after a winless six-game road trip that put them outside a wild-card spot in the Western Conference playoff chase. The Bruins have clinched a playoff berth.

### DEVILS 4, PENGUINS 3 (OT)

Taylor Hall scored just 27 seconds into overtime to give New Jersey a critical victory over host Pittsburgh. Hall finished with a goal and two assists. The game ended a six-game road trip for the Devils, who went 4-2-0 over that stretch. Sidney Crosby led the Penguins with a goal and an assist.

### JETS 3, DUCKS 2 (OT)

Kyle Connor scored with 1:44 to go in overtime to help Winnipeg break the franchise record for points in a season with a victory over visiting Anaheim. The Jets (45-19-10, 100 points) surpassed the previous mark of 99 points set in 2014-15. The Jets won their fifth straight home game and now lead the NHL with 28 home victories (28-7-2). Mark Scheifele had a goal and two assists, including one on the game-winner when he fed Connor on a two-on-one. Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for Winnipeg, while Derek Grant and Nick Ritchie found the net for the Ducks.

### BLUES 4, CANUCKS 1

Patrik Berglund scored two goals, including the winner, as St. Louis downed visiting Vancouver. The Blues posted their fourth consecutive win and moved within a point of the idle Colorado Avalanche in the race for the second Western Conference wild card. The Canucks took their eighth loss in nine games as they came out flat following a decisive victory in Chicago one night earlier. Vladimir Tarasenko, in his first game back after missing two with an undisclosed upper-body injury, and Dmitriy Jaskin also tallied for the Blues. Sam Gagner, with his first goal in 26 games, replied for the Canucks.

### CANADIENS 3, SABRES 0

Antti Niemi made 35 saves to record his first shutout in more than two years, and Artturi Lehkonen's early second-period tally held up as the winner as Montreal claimed a rare road victory. Niemi's last shutout was Dec. 22, 2015, a 4-0 win over the Chicago Blackhawks while he was with the Dallas Stars. It came 84 games ago for Niemi, who has 26 career shutouts. Paul Byron and Brendan Gallagher sealed the win with empty-net goals. The victory at KeyBank Center was the Canadiens' 10th on the road this season, the fewest in the league. Montreal snapped a four-game losing streak, all in regulation. Montreal won all four meetings with Buffalo this season, two in extra time.— Reuters

## Bancroft faces ball tampering claims, S Africa stretch lead

CAPE TOWN: Australian opening batsman Cameron Bancroft could face tampering claims after being spoken to by umpires about an object in his pocket during yesterday's play in the third Test against South Africa.

Television footage appeared to show Bancroft take an object out of his pocket while fielding on the third day of the Test at Newlands. He was then seen tucking the object down the front of his trousers before he spoke to on-field umpires Nigel Llong and Richard Illingworth. Shane Warne, the Australian spin bowling great, said on Twitter he was "very disappointed" by the pictures and called on Australia captain Steve Smith to clear up the "mess" in the post-play press conference. Aiden Markram and AB de Villiers batted South Africa into a strong position, leaving South Africa at 238 for five in their second innings when bad light ended play, an overall lead of 294. The series is tied at one match apiece.

Opening batsman Markram made 84 and De Villiers batted with unusual caution to be 51 not out at the close. In a series that has featured several incidents between South African and Australian players, there was an increased security presence after Australian players complained about "disgraceful" behaviour by spectators. Guards were placed near the stairs leading to the dressing rooms and an Australian security official positioned himself near David Warner, the player most targeted by the crowd.

Security officials and police were seen talking to people in the crowd and on at least one occasion took some spectators away.

### MARKRAM'S LUCKY ESCAPE

Markram, out for nought in the first innings, could have completed a "pair" but he was dropped off the fourth ball of the second innings when he edged Mitchell Starc low to the left of Usman Khawaja at gully. He survived another much more difficult chance on 59 when Smith flung himself to his right at second slip and got his fingertips to a flying edge off Josh Hazlewood. Smith, who held a world record-equaling five catches in the first innings, had already added to his tally by catching first innings century-maker Dean Elgar off Pat Cummins for 14. Markram, who made a century in the first Test in Durban, batted solidly despite his lapses and hit ten fours and two sixes in a 145-ball

## England can save Test thanks to NZ rain: Thorpe

AUCKLAND: The rain that has dampened New Zealand's hopes of a Test victory in Auckland has offered a lifeline to a battle-scarred England but they will need improve their mindset to save the match, according to Graham Thorpe.

Thorpe, now the England batting coach, drew upon the painful experience of a batting disaster from very early in his own career as a middle-order batsman. His sixth Test was against the West Indies in 1994 at Port of Spain where England were rolled for 46 in the second innings—their second-lowest innings ever, and worse even than the 58 made in the first innings of this Test against New Zealand.

"The mind is the most important thing and my life perspective story can come into play quite a bit," Thorpe said



CAPE TOWN: Australian fielder Cameron Bancroft (R) throws the ball to Umpire Richard Illingworth (L) during the third day of the third Test cricket match between South Africa and Australia at Newlands cricket ground yesterday in Cape Town.— AFP

## SCOREBOARD

CAPE TOWN: South Africa had taken their overall lead to 294 when bad light stopped play on the third day of the third Test against Australia at Newlands yesterday.

Brief scores

South Africa 311 and 238-5 (A. Markram 84, A. de Villiers 51 not out; P. Cummins 2-47).  
Australia 255 (C. Bancroft 77, N. Lyon 47; K. Rabada 4-91, M. Morkel 4-87). — AFP

innings. He shared partnerships of 76 with Hashim Amla (31) and 47 with AB de Villiers, who was unbeaten on 18.

Markram was out in the last over before tea when he chipped Mitchell Starc to mid-on where Cummins held a low catch. De Villiers opened his scoring with a slapped six off the back foot over cover off Cummins but it was the only scoring shot in the first 20 balls he faced as he made a cautious start to his innings.

De Villiers looked determined to bat until deep in the

innings and had faced 103 balls by the close. South Africa bowled out Australia for 255 at the start of the day, a first innings lead of 56, with Australia adding ten runs before losing their last wicket.

Australia's last batsman, Josh Hazlewood, hit two fours off Kagiso Rabada before he was caught by Amla at first slip off Rabada off the 17th ball of the day. In contrast to the first two days, the weather was cool and cloudy and bad light ended play about 40 minutes early.— AFP

as England prepared for a thorough examination over the remaining two days of the Test. "Your pride is dented, but you can't feel sorry for yourself for too long. You can't just run off into the hills or hide under the bed, you've actually got to get up and go again the next day."

After England's short-lived first innings, New Zealand were 175 for three at stumps on day one, with a lead of 117 runs. But lengthy rain disruptions have meant they advanced only 58 more runs in just 25 available overs in the following two days. Only 17 balls were bowled yesterday before showers returned for the entire day. With fine weather forecast for the remainder of the Test, Thorpe has dismissed the idea of a first innings post-mortem examination and put the emphasis on England looking forward to save the Test. "The important thing is what happens in the rest of the game and the confidence of the players trying to clear your minds," he said. "The rain has probably helped us a little bit. We're nowhere near out of the woods but it can give them something to focus on and we're going to have to bat better than we did."

"There's a glimmer still in this Test match. We're well capable of batting well in the second innings and saving

the game." England do have issues to address, the most immediate being how to cope with the swing bowling of Trent Boult and Tim Southee, who took all 10 wickets in the first innings. In the longer term Thorpe suggested the preparation for Test matches needs to be looked at, after the build up to this Test was restricted to two two-day games against a New Zealand XI.

"We didn't play the swinging ball well, no-one did and we weren't able to put a foothold in the game," he said. "Boult got the ball perfect for a left arm seamer but it might only do that for 15 overs. No-one was trying to get out. Sometimes these things happen and they shake up the dressing room and they shake up the individuals as well. "The mind is the most important thing. They've got to go back out there and they've got another innings and they've got to get back in the fight." Thorpe said that for the health of Test cricket it would be a definite help to have a bigger warm-up window for touring sides but insisted there were "no excuses" for England's first-day batting performance.

"You have to play what's in front of you and on match day you have to come up with something and we didn't have the answers." — AFP