

Canadian World Figure Skating Team Predictions

Like many other sports around the world, figure skating has had to pivot and change competition layouts to virtual as well as cancel some in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of all those involved. However, as of February 20th, the International Skating Union has proposed that the World Figure Skating Championships in Sweden will proceed.

The Canadian National Championships was set occur on February 8-14 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Unfortunately, due to the rise of COVID-19 cases, the unpredictable travel restrictions, and rink openings, it was cancelled on January 11th.

Thus, Skate Canada Federation has a difficult decision on deciding who will be sent to represent team Canada at the World Championships. Team Canada has several talented athletes to choose from. With the lack of competitions, the sample size of scores are limited as well. To top it off, based on the placements the Canadian team at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships, Skate Canada can only send 1 Mens and 2 Ladies to Sweden.

CRITERIA

Now below is the criteria for the World Figure Skating Championship 2021 Team selection provided by Skate Canada:

- Placement at the 2019 ISU World Championships
- Placement and scores at the 2020 Canadian Championships
- Placement and scores at the 2020 ISU Four Continents Championships
- Season best international score from the 2019-2020, ISU Grand Prix Series, Senior International events and / or ISU Grand Prix Final
- Season best score from the 2020/21 ISU Grand Prix Series and 2020/2021 Skate Canada Challenge
- Demonstration of short and free skate international scores for a potential world placement in the top three flights at the 2021 ISU World Championships

Skate Canada has not specified which criteria takes precedent but it is not unreasonable to assume that the most recent results and competitions will take leverage. So the following analysis will use the following calculations:

- Most Recent Score
- Average Score
- Highest International Score
- Lowest International Score

MENS FIELD

Within the Mens Field, there are currently three potential contenders. Selecting the one athlete is incredibly crucial when preparing for the following Olympic season (Beijing 2022). This athlete's placement at these World Championships will determine how many Canadian athletes

can be sent to the Olympics as well as the following World Championships. Skate Canada is looking to increase that number from 1 to 2 or possibly 3.

Here are their highlights as well as their averages & scores based on all of the international competitions and National championships from season 2019 - 2021:

| | Keegan Messing | Nam Nguyen | Roman Sadovsky |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2018 Olympian• '18-'19 Grand Prix Finalist• 3x National Medalist | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5x National Medalist, 2x National Champion• 2020 World Team Member• '19-'20 Grand Prix Final Alternate | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2020 Reigning National Champion• 2021 Skate Canada Challenge Champion |
| AVERAGE | 247.4766667 | 243.9457143 | 232.86 |
| HIGHEST SCORE | 266.42 | 262.77 | 262.01 |
| LOWEST SCORE | 237.36 | 209.84 | 200.5 |
| HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL SCORE | 266.42 | 262.77 | 262.01 |
| LOWEST INTERNATIONAL SCORE | 237.36 | 209.84 | 200.5 |

Based on their scores:

- Most Recent Score: Keegan Messing
- Average Score: Keegan Messing
- Highest International Score: Keegan Messing
- Highest Lowest International Score (whichever skater's lowest score is the highest): Keegan Messing

LADIES FIELD

As for the Ladies, there are 4 candidates. Like the Mens category, Skate Canada is hoping to retain the 2 spots for the following season or increase that number to 3. Here are their highlights as well as their averages & scores based on all of the international competitions and National championships from season 2019 - 2021:

| | Alison Schumacher | Emily Bausback | Gabrielle Daleman | Madeline Schizas |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Canadian Silver Medalist • 2021 Skate Canada Challenge Silver Medalist • 2x Canadian Junior World Team Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 World Team Member • 2020 Reigning National Champion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Olympian • 2017 World Bronze Medalist • 2x Canadian National Champion • 2021 Skate Canada Bronze Medalist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Canadian Bronze Medalist • 2x Skate Canada Challenge Champion (Reigning) |
| AVERAGE | 162.91 | 159.355 | 160.44 | 170.3675 |
| HIGHEST SCORE | 169.98 | 175.54 | 192.67 | 175.65 |
| LOWEST SCORE | 150.73 | 147.23 | 136.89 | 162.19 |
| HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL SCORE | 169.98 | 172.48 | 165.66 | 175.65 |
| LOWEST INTERNATIONAL SCORE | 150.73 | 147.23 | 145.68 | 162.19 |

Based on the numbers above:

- Most Recent Score : Madeline Schizas
- Average Score: Madeline Schizas
- Highest International Score: Gabby Daleman
- Highest Lowest International Score (whichever skater's lowest score is the highest) : Madeline Schizas

LIMITATIONS

Here are limitations that need to be considered

1. Lack of scores (and the closeness of the all of the scores) makes it hard to predict the trajectory of an athlete's' scores
2. Current training conditions for each skater (as COVID-19 restrictions have impacted such) which influences a skaters preparation for such competition.
3. As mentioned, Skate Canada has not mentioned if certain criteria has more leverage.

CONCLUSION

Nonetheless, based on the numbers, here are my predictions for the Canadian World Team for the World Figure Skating Championships 2021 (MENS & LADIES):

MENS: Keegan Messing

- * Alternate 1: Nam Nguyen
- * Alternate 2: Roman Sadovsky

LADIES: Madeline Schizas, Gabrielle Daleman

- * Alternate 1: Alison Schumacher
- * Alternate 2: Emily Bausback

Short Analysis by LutzGo on February 20, 2021