

Canada Winter Games Figure Skating Gold Medalist Kaiya Ruitter represents Canada at Junior Grand Prix in Italy



Photo Credit: Danielle Earl Photography

Edmonton – 13 year old Kaiya Ruitter is currently sitting in 5th place after the short program at the Junior Grand Prix in Egna Italy.

This Calgary skater is drawing attention on the National and International scene after being crowned the Novice Women 2019 Canadian Tire National Skating Champion, and a Gold Medalist at the 2019 Canada Winter Games. This is the second stop on the Junior Grand Prix circuit for Kaiya this season, placing 11th last month at the Riga Cup in Latvia. This is not her first appearance at the international level and was a Bronze Medalist at the Bavarian Open International, her first international assignment earlier this year. Kaiya, coached by Scott Davis and Jeff Langdon at the Glencoe Club in Calgary, will skate her free program tomorrow in Italy.

“We are extremely proud of all of our athletes and their achievements, and especially thrilled for the six skaters that are part of the Skate Canada National Teams and are representing our Section this season” states Executive Director Lisa Hardy. “These skaters work hard and put in endless hours of training to compete at this level and Kaiya is a perfect example of that hard work paying off”.

Other skaters that have represented the Section in the Junior Grand Prix this season include Eric Liu, an Edmonton Ice Palace skater coached by Ravi Walia, who finished 8th overall in Junior Men at the Riga Cup last month. Also skating out of the Edmonton Ice Palace is Matthew Newnham who is was assigned as an alternate at one of the Junior Grand Prix events however is still waiting for his first international skating assignment.

Isabel McQuilkin and Jacob Portz, bronze medalists at both the Canada Winter Games and the 2019 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships also made their first debut on the international scene at the Riga Cup placing 11th overall in Junior Ice Dance. Isabel and Jacob are coached by Kim Slopak-Weeks, Tyler Myles, & Team out of the Calgary Calalta Figure Skating Club.

Senior Men’s skater Keegan Messing, coached by Ralph Burghart recently won Bronze at the 2019 Autumn Classic International with his new short and free programs and is scheduled to compete at the upcoming Skate America Grand Prix in Las Vegas October 18-20th, 2019.

Background:

Skate Canada: Alberta – NWT/Nunavut (“Section”) is a non-profit sport organization and is the provincial governing body for the sport of figure skating in Alberta, NWT and Nunavut. The Section is dedicated to the principles of providing safe and inclusive programs, enabling everyone to participate in skating throughout their lifetime for fun, fitness, and achievement.

Past champions of the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section include 2-time Olympic medalist and 2018 World Champion Kaetlyn Osmond, four-time World Champion Kurt Browning, 2002 Olympic Champion Jamie Salé, and 1982 World Bronze medalist Brian Pockar.

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