



# US SPEEDSKATING PRESS RELEASE

5662 South Cougar Lane | Kearns UT 84118

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, Oct. 1, 2018

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## **Short Track skaters kick off the season at the Utah Olympic Oval** *First races of the year will select the Fall World Cup Team*

**KEARNS, Utah** - Oct. 6, 2018. The first short track speedskating World Cup Qualifier/AmCup 1 kicked off at the Utah Olympic Oval with returning Olympians, international teams and the new mixed relay event. The world cup qualifier is a selection process for the fall world cup team that will be announced at the conclusion of tomorrow's events.

**Kristen Santos** (Fairfield, Conn.) won the the Ladies 1500m finals with **Danielle Amos** (Dayton, Ohio) finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the race and **Katherine Liu** (Basking Ridge, N.J.) in 6<sup>th</sup>.

"I think I skated well," Santos said. "Skating with international skaters makes racing a bit different. There's a lot of bumping, passing and moving. It will be good preparation for our team going to the world cups."

The Men's 1500m had 2018 Olympians **Thomas Hong** (Laurel, Md.) and **Ryan Pivrotto** (Ann Arbor, Mich.), and **Adam Callister** (SLC, Utah), winning their semi-final heats. Olympian **Aaron Tran** (Federal Way, Wa.) also made it to the semis, but fell and didn't move on. Alex Marceau (CAN) won the 1500m with Callister (3) Hong (4) and Pivrotto (6).

2018 Olympian **Maame Biney** (Reston, Va.) skated to a first-place finish in the Ladies 500m with teammate **Corinne Stoddard** finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. Santos qualified for the final event, but pulled out due to an injury sustained in her 500m heat. She will not compete for the rest of the event.

"I felt better than I expected," Biney said. "I was so nervous until the [500m] A Final, probably because it's my first race of the season."

The Mens 500m was won by Mathieu Bernier (CAN), followed by Hong (2), Jonathan So (3) and Tran (4).

The Relay Mixed 2000m debuted at the event, featuring ladies and men skating together in the semi-finals. Tomorrow's final event will have teams from Canada, China and the USA facing off. "It's a new event. I wasn't sure what to expect," Tran said. "It was pretty chaotic."

Tomorrow's Ladies 3000m relay will include the CAN 1 & 2, CHN 1 and USA 1 teams while the 5000m relay final will include USA 1 & 2, CAN 1 and an international team.

Overall, US Speedskating Short Track Head Coach **Wilma Boomstra** was pleased with the first event of the season, but felt the team needed to be more focused. "A lot of the things we practiced, [the skaters] are not applying. There's definitely some great things as well, but they're not taking advantage of situations," she said.

The event continues tomorrow at 9 a.m. (MT) with the Ladies and Mens 1000m, followed by the finals for the Relay Mixed 2000m, Ladies 3000m Relay and Mens 5000m Relay.

[Get complete results here](#)



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