

OLIMPIADI



PATTINAGGIO DI FIGURA

FAIELLA E SCALI

Non chiamateci sport

«Ci alleniamo 5 ore al giorno sui pattini, ma vanno curate e scelte le musiche, i costumi e poi tante le lezioni di ballo»

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Giulia Zonca



TORINO.0 Sono l'altra coppia, due italiani che danzano su ghiaccio e non si chiamano Fusar Poli-Margaglio. Federica Faiella e Massimo Scali però stanno nei primi 10 dopo gli obbligatori, vogliono restarci fino a domani.



«Ma la nostra vera sfida comincia dopo queste Olimpiadi, dopo il cambio generazionale». Massimo Scali è appena uscito da un allenamento che sembrava una gara.

«Ci saranno state 4 mila persone a vedere Barbara e Maurizio. Lì per loro, perché poi se ne sono andati. Però hanno aspettato anche noi ed è stato emozionante».

Come mai la gente si sta appassionando tanto al pattinaggio?

«Perché è un mondo a parte, soprattutto la danza. Fusar Poli e Margaglio hanno aperto la strada, però non finisce con questa Olimpiade. Credo in un'onda lunga, certo starà anche a noi tenere il livello alto. Ai campionati italiani eravamo in tre



Federica Faiella e Massimo Scali

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FEDERICA FAIELLA & MASSIMO SCALI: DON'T CALL US "SPORT"

by Giulia Zonca

They are the other couple, two Italians dancing on the ice and not called Fusar Poli and Margaglio.

But Federica Faiella and Massimo Scali are in the top 10 after the compulsory dances, and want to still be there tomorrow. "But our real challenge will start after these Olympics, after the generational turnover".

Massimo Scali just came out of a practice session that looked like a competition. "There must have been 4 thousand people there to see Barbara and Maurizio. They came for them, because after they practiced, they left. But before, they waited for us as well, it was a big emotion".

Why is everyone falling in love with skating?

"Because it is a whole different world, dance in particular. Fusar Poli and Margaglio paved the way, but it won't be over with these Olympics. I believe it will have a long lasting effect, and it will be our goal to keep the level high. At last nationals there were only three couples, but there will be more".

But is this really a sport?

"Not just that. Ice dance requires an important physical preparation. We train 4-5 hours, 6 days out of 7, on the ice. Then there's the gym, and the dance lessons. This is a sport, plus there's the glitter. Anyone choosing this discipline is attracted by its artistic components. I like to choose costumes, I like to sparkle on the ice. Until some time ago everything was done in sequins, now it's all full of swarovskis. I have one for the last night".

Doesn't it hurt you that all your hard work is obscured by the sequins?

"The culture on this has improved. When I was at school, I was asked things like "but do you wear a tutu?" - this kind of jokes. Now when I tell someone what I do, there's much more interest. There's always the tendency to make fun of the other sports, like when I see some enormous athletes at the cafeteria in the village, and think : that is not what I call a sport... it's in the point of view. Excellence for us is to mask the fatigue. Here you have to smile and think about things like the soundtrack".

Who chose yours?

"Our psychologist, Paolo Cignozzi, suggested it to us. We are dancing on "The Mission" by Ennio Morricone. I know, it is the same music used by Kostner in her short, we discovered this during the summer tour, but we already liked it too much and we kept it".

At your level, can you live with your skating?

"We are just starting to earn a living with it. We moved from Rome because there was no more ice there, we live together and we can't afford having two homes. We need to climb one more step to be more financially secured. You have to be in the top three - those getting the medals. The next Olys will be our chance".