

GRAND PRIX FINAL 2008 GOYANG CITY, SOUTH KOREA

Original Dance - 20s, 30s and 40s

Federica Faiella and Massimo Scali, who train with Pasquale Camerlengo and Anjelika Kryova at the Detroit SC, were second in the French GP but won the NHK in Tokyo. They were the third qualifiers because their total score from those two events was 15.18 less than that of Domnina and Shabalin. It was the Italians' first Grand Prix gold, although they have earned six GP bronzes over the past four years. This is their first time making it to the Final.

Competing on the day he turned 29 (December 12), Faiella, 27, and Scali performed to music from the 1936 smash musical *Follow the Fleet*, *It's Too Darn Hot*, *Let's Face the Music and Dance*, which is a Foxtrot, and *Let Yourself Go*. He was a buoyant tap dancing Fred Astaire in a sailor outfit. She's emulating Ginger Rogers in pants (which, at that time, was quite a revolutionary fashion move). "*I love this music,*" Scali enthused. "*The costumes are authentic,*" said Faiella. "*We studied the movie.*"

The received Level 3 for their spin (+0.20) and non-touching steps (+1.20). The other three elements gained Level 4. Both their rotational lift and twizzles got +0.50 GoE and the diagonal steps +0.60. "*We only had Level 2 for the diagonal at the NHK and Level 3 for the twizzles so this definitely showed improvement,*" Faiella explained. She had fallen on a transition move in this routine in Tokyo although they still won the gold. She said she was being extra careful at that point. "*I learned that I need to wait for Massimo to pass through before I make that step, and I did.*"

INJURIES During the morning practice, they collapsed on their spin with Faiella getting her right hand under his blade. It immediately started bleeding. As they skated to the barrier, she left a trail of blood. Scali said, "*We were afraid that the ligament was affected because the cut (which was at the base of the ring finger and the palm of her hand) was pretty deep.*" The gash had to have six stitches to close.

Free Dance

Faiella and Scali gave a performance which is definitely unique to Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. Pierrot, in a clown outfit, is in love with the moon. She is his Columbine. He said, "*We are a little upset about the technical mark because it's very low. We are upset but at the same time happy because we feared that Federica's accident had affected the ligament because the cut was pretty deep. We were more afraid on the spin (during which the accident happened) because she has to hold me and on the twizzles because she has to grab her blade. But it was fine.*"

However, their spin was given only the basic Level 1 with +0.40 GoE. Faiella skated with her hand bandaged. She said, "*I was thinking about it during the lift. I used only two fingers to hold on instead of the whole hand but that worked OK.*" They received Level 4 for their straight line and rotational lifts, and for their twizzles, but their first lift, which was a curve, gained only Level 2. The other three moves were Level 3. Scali added, "*We are upset that we lost a medal but sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.*"