

# NHK TROPHY 2008

## TOKYO, JAPAN

### Day 1 - 28 Nov 2008

The NHK Trophy in Tokyo, Japan kicked off Friday with the Compulsory and Original Dance, the Ladies, Men's and Pairs Short Programs.

The Ice Dancers opened today's competition with the Compulsory Dance and returned later in the evening for the Original Dance. The Compulsory Dance for the NHK Trophy is the Paso Doble. The Original Dance for this season is "Rhythms of the 20s, 30s and 40s".

After the two segments, Italy's Federica Faiella/Massimo Scali are leading ahead of Nathalie Péchalat/Fabian Bourzat of France and Kristina Gorshkova/Vitali Butikov (RUS).

Faiella/Scali captured the lead in the Compulsory Dance with a strong Paso Doble that had much attack. The Italian Champions picked up 35.61 points (17.72 element score/17.89 program component score) for this performance. They then gave an entertaining performance of their Original Dance to Tap Dance and Slow Foxtrot from the "Follow the Fleet" soundtrack. Faiella/Scali produced a level-three dance spin, side by side midline footwork and a level-four one-armed rotational lift. Then Faiella suddenly got stuck with her toe pick during a transitional move and fell, but the couple recovered instantly and finished with a diagonal step sequence (level two). The Trophee Bompard silver medalists were awarded 53.78 points (27.40 element score/27.38 program component score) and were ranked second in the OD, but overall remained in first place at 89.39 points. *"We performed pretty well today. The Compulsory was very good, we felt comfortable and were really in character"*, Scali told the press. *"We did a good job in the OD too, there was just this mistake, the toe-pick of her. It's part of our job to keep going if a mistake never happened, you have to keep your energy and give even more energy for the rest of the program"*, he continued when asked about recovering from the fall.

### Day 2 - 29 Nov 2008

The NHK Trophy in Tokyo, Japan continued Saturday with the Free Dance, the Pairs and Ladies Free Skating. Federica Faiella/Massimo Scali of Italy danced to their first Grand Prix gold medal, edging out France's Nathalie Péchalat/Fabian Bourzat by just 1.25 points. Emily Samuelson/Evan Bates (USA) captured the bronze medal.

Faiella/Scali gave an emotional performance of their "Moonlight Sonata" routine that is about Pierrot who is in love with the moon. The Italian Champions completed difficult lifts, earning a level four for all of them and got a level four for the twizzles and a level three for the circular step sequence. On the other hand, the combination spin was graded only a level one and the midline steps a level two. Faiella/Scali picked up 87.28 points (43.20/44.08) and were ranked second in the Free Dance, but held on to first place overall at 176.67 points. *"We are so happy that I can't really describe it"*, Scali said. *"It has been years that we have been trying to get something else than a bronze medal (on the Grand Prix). This is our first gold medal and our first NHK Trophy, and we are really proud."* He added that they felt it difficult to skate after the fall in the Original Dance yesterday. *"The pressure was already high, because only the winner today can go to the Grand Prix Final, and the mistake didn't help"*, the ice dancer explained.

Faiella/Scali qualified with their victory and 28 points for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final for the first time in their career. Péchalat/Bourzat are first substitutes with 24 points.