

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009 LOS ANGELES, USA

Compulsory Dance - Paso Doble

Federica Faiella, 28, & Massimo Scali, 29, the 6-time Italian champions, who have trained in Detroit since 2006, are competing in their 8th world championship. Their best place was 5th last year. They skated first in the last warm-up group of five. She said, *"We felt so good, winning silver in Europeans. We were so happy. We were also happy when they picked the Paso Doble for here. I think, today, we did a really good job. It was powerful and precise. But these championships are hard. There are a lot of really strong competitors."*

Original Dance - 20s, 30s and 40s

The European silver medalists, Federica Faiella & Massimo Scali, who represent Italy but train in Detroit, are prone to falls. They were one of only two couples to suffer this misfortune in the Original. Skating last, they presented a tap dance to music from the movie Follow the Fleet including Let Yourself Go and Let's Face the Music and Dance. Faiella, in a white top and red skirt, & Scali, who was dressed as a sailor, began with their spin which earned their lowest GoE of +0.30. All but their last element, the diagonal steps which was Level 3, gained Level 4. Their top GoE was +1.0 for their non-touching steps. Fortunately for them, their fall was not on an element. Scali explained, *"I was doing a cross-over and I think my one boot hit the other boot and I lost my balance. I tried to catch it and I thought I did, but then I completely lost it."* He went down and pulled her along with him so they got a deduction of two points. *"It's a shame. I think we couldn't have hoped for much more than 7th place here anyway, but still. . . It was a little sad for us to come here after the medal at Europeans and now we know, going into the Free Dance, that we had no chance of a medal here."*

Free Dance

The European silver medalists, Federica Faiella & Massimo Scali of Italy, were still in shock from the fall they took in the original. He said, *"It was really, really, really hard. More than the mistake yesterday there was this disappointment with the results of the Paso Doble. We arrived here after an amazing season. We got our first medal (silver) at Europeans and we got into the Grand Prix Final. So was it was an amazing season. We knew we didn't have a judge (on the panel) and it would be difficult to fight. We didn't come here to fight for 7th place. We came to fight for a top five finish. So after yesterday we had to skate clean. We really feel proud. I am really proud of Federica, since she hasn't been feeling well the last couple of days."* In their free dance, set to Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, he portrayed Pierrot, a stock, sad, classic mime, who in a theatre is normally dressed in a white clown's outfit as Scali was, with an obsession for the moon. She is his Columbine. She loves him but he loves only the moon. All but their twizzles and midline steps were level 4. Like Khokhlova & Novitski, they incurred a 1.0 deduction. This would have changed their placement in the Free Dance, but it would not have made a difference to their overall position.