



2012 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships

San Jose, Calif.

Championship Men Short Program – Jan. 27, 2012

Jeremy Abbott– 1st place – 90.23 points

(On how he psyched himself up for this event)

“Well I think this question can be directed at the three of us because the three of us were the Four Continents team last year and we were four-five-six and now we’re one-two-three. But after Four Continents last year I was actually thankful that happened with World’s getting pushed back so late. I felt like I had extra time to set a plan for this season and make sure all the details were covered so that nothing was missing. Yuka, Jason and myself really made sure to put everything into my training this year so that nothing would happen like last year. So we took the plan and I’ve been working really hard with them and it’s been really nice having Adam and all the other people who come to work with us. It’s really made an incredible atmosphere at our rink. There’s lots of energy and it’s exciting to train every day. Having Adam there and having such a strong plan with my coaches has really helped my training and helped my competing.”

Adam Rippon –2nd place – 82.94

(opening statement)

“I’m really happy with how I skated today. It’s just been a culmination of a lot of hard work and changing my mindset and everything so, I’m really proud of what I was able to do and I’m looking forward to skating on Sunday.”

(On if he’s surprised with his placement)

“No. I knew that if I skated well that I would be up at the top of the leaderboard. I was really confident in what I was able to do and I’m really satisfied with what I did. I think it puts me in a really good place for the long program.”

(On how he psyched himself up for this event)

“I’ve had a busy few months. I recently moved to Detroit over the summer and Jeremy and I train together. I think it’s really affected my whole skating in a positive way. After the Grand Prix season, I just put myself in their [Yuka Sato and Jason Dungjen] hands and to be able to train with Jeremy is an honor. It’s a great experience. I feel like we’re kind of coming in here as a team and I really happy for him today and I’m sure he’s really happy for me.”

(On overcoming his short program struggles from the past)

“Yesterday before Ashley (Wagner) skated we ran into each other and she said ‘you know, sometimes we do the same thing here and I’m just going to do you a favor and I’m going to skate really well tonight.’ So when she was skating I was really happy for her because I knew it was such a monkey on her back. It really gave me a lot of confidence to know that if she could overcome it, I could overcome it. It’s definitely a huge step forward for me and I’m really happy with how tonight went.”

Armin Mahbanoozadeh – 3rd place – 80.66 points

(opening statement)

“I was really excited to skate well today. The crowd’s energy was up after Jeremy skated so well, and I tried to take advantage of that. I skated how I’ve been training. I moved to Colorado about a month and a half ago and training has been going well. I was happy to just show that to the audience today.”