

TWO LAKEWOOD ICE SKATERS MAKING HISTORY AT THE ISU GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING

Nathan Chen made history when he scored the first grand prix medal of his young career November 26, 2016 when he won silver at NHK Trophy in Sapporo, Japan. Nathan is coached by Rafael Arutyunyan at The Rinks Lakewood ICE.

The event was only his second grand prix (he finished fourth at Trophee de France two weeks ago) and his podium finish made the 17-year-old the youngest U.S. men's skater to medal at a grand prix event. Chen placed second in Friday's short program as well as Saturday's free skate to finish with a personal best combined score of 268.91. His second- and fourth-place finishes qualified him for the Grand Prix Final, to be held Dec. 8-11 in Marseille, France.

The silver medal signals that Chen is back into form after suffering a hip injury at the 2016 national championships, where he won the bronze medal. Surgery forced him to postpone his world championship debut last year. It also prevented his return to the junior worlds, where he had won bronze in 2014 and was fourth in 2015.

With four different types of quadruple jumps in his repertoire, Chen's impact is expected to be felt in the final year of preparation for the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. He already has flashed signs of brilliance, including his historic four quads in his free skate at the 2016 nationals. His short program score of 92.85 in France last month, a personal best, broke the American record of 90.30 set by Vancouver 2010 Olympic champion Evan Lysacek.

Adam Rippon made history as well winning for the first time in one season, a second straight Grand Prix Medal and setting two personal best scores. Adam is also coached by Rafael Arutyunyan at The Rinks Lakewood ICE.

Adam earned two medals at two separate Grand Prix events this season earning him a spot at the Grand Prix Final alongside his team mate Nathan Chen, to be held Dec. 8-11 in Marseille, France. Adam earned the bronze medal at Skate America October 23, 2016 after changing his free skate program only two weeks earlier.

On his 27th birthday Adam went on to capture his second Grand Prix bronze medal at Trophee de France on November 12, 2016 in Paris. Scoring 182.28 in the Free Skate with a beautifully executed Quad Toe Loop, created a final personal-best overall score of 267.53. He was second in the free skate and finished third overall. Rippon's signature move is a triple lutz that he executes with both arms above his head, named the "*Rippon Lutz*". He is also one of the few men able to do an amazing full lay-back spin.

Coach Rafael Arutyunyan and his team of coaches, Vera Arutyunyan and Nadia Kanaeva, are very proud and honored to have the only two men chosen from the United States in the Grand Prix Final Event.