

World Championship glamor at the Nebelhorn Trophy

The 56th Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf from September 19-21 shines in World Championship glamor. Reigning Pairs World Champions Deanna Stellato-Dudek/Maxime Deschamps of Canada will start their season in the Allgäu. The duo will face strong competition there, as Germany's best pair, World bronze medallists Minerva Hase/Nikita Volodin from Berlin, will be at the start. The shooting stars began their steep rise a year ago, which not only led them on to the World Championship podium, but also to gold in the ISU Grand Prix Final. Stellato-Dudek loves Oberstdorf and was already successful here at the 2000 Junior World Championships, winning silver. After a 16-year break from the sport, she celebrated an incredible comeback as a pair skater. Two strong U.S. duos Ellie Kam/Danny O'Shea and Alisa Efimova/Misha Mitrofanov are competing as well.

In addition to the pair skating stars, other top skaters will be coming to the ice sports center. Current World silver medallist and last year's winner at Nebelhorn, Isabeau Levito (USA), is looking forward to returning to the Allgäu. Switzerland's Kimmy Repond, fifth at the World Championships, who is now training in Oberstdorf, will also be there, as will Four Continents Champion Mone Chiba from Japan and her teammate Hana Yoshida, who is one of the few women currently with a triple Axel in her repertoire.

Korea's Junhwan Cha, silver medalist at the 2023 World Championships, is considered the top favorite in the men's event. His strongest rivals are likely to be Sota Yamamoto from Japan and Deniss Vasiljevs from Latvia.

The ice dance event will certainly be exciting with last year's winners and European silver medallists Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson from Great Britain, Canada's Marjorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha, who were fifth at Worlds, and Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko (USA).

With 13 pairs, 23 women, 25 men and 17 ice dance couples, the Nebelhorn Trophy is very well attended. This is no wonder, as the Trophy is one of the most traditional figure skating competitions in the world and has been attracting top international figure skaters to the Allgäu for decades. It is part of the prestigious Challenger Series of the International Skating Union.