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Brittany Bowe Wins ISU Speed Skating Grand World Cup

Bowe wins 1000m gold and overall today from Heerenveen

KEARNS, Utah – US Speedskating's **Brittany Bowe** (Ocala, Fla.) claimed the ISU Speed Skating Grand World Cup title from Heerenveen, Netherlands, as the ISU World Cup Final concluded at Thialf Arena. It was the second consecutive year an American has won the season-long honor.

"What a great way to end the season going four-for-four this weekend at the World Cup Final here in Heerenveen," said Bowe. "It has been a great year and I'm honored to have closed the season winning the Grand World Cup title."

Bowe entered the final day leading the Grand World Cup table and clinched the title with a gold medal in the women's 1000m. She concluded the season with 1660 total points, and overall World Cup titles in the 1000m (710 points) and the 1500m (590).

Partnered with compatriot **Heather Bergsma** (High Point, N.C.) in the sixth pair, Bergsma took an early lead with a 17.69 opening 200-meters. She maintained her lead entering the final lap but Bowe turned on the burners and skated a 28.8 final 400-meters, the fastest final lap of the day. Her time of 1:14.22 edged Jorien ter Mors' 1:14.44. Bergsma crossed in 1:15.07 for the bronze.

The win was Bowe's fourth of the weekend and 10th World Cup gold of the season. In 22 ISU World Cup races in the 2015-16 season, Bowe has won 20 medals.

"It was an amazing finish to a great year for Brittany," said National Sprint Team Head Coach, **Matt Kooreman**. "Winning every race she entered in the final World Cup and the Grand World Cup title is a true testament to her diligent preparation and consistency."

In other races for the U.S., Bergsma finished eighth in the women's Mass Start. In the men's 1500m, **Joey Mantia** (Ocala, Fla.) finished seventh in 1:46.88 and **Shani Davis** (Chicago, III.) finished eighth in 1:47.24. Mantia finished third in the final men's 1500m World Cup rankings. **KC Boutiette** (Tacoma, Wash.) placed 10th in the men's Mass Start.

Bergsma, winner of the 2014-15 Grand World Cup, finished second to Bowe in this year's standings at 1389 points. She won the overall 500m World Cup title and won 18 total medals throughout the season, including four at the World Cup Final.

For complete results from Heerenveen, click <u>here</u> and to watch the action on demand, visit <u>icenetwork.com</u>. Universal HD will have coverage of the World Cup Final on March 13 at 7-8 p.m. EST.

About US Speedskating

From Pond to Podium, we are US Speedskating. We grow and nurture a sport where all ages can experience the thrill of speed and the camaraderie of the skating community. US Speedskating is responsible for the development of speed skating from grassroots to the highest elite racing programs. US Speedskating is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union as the governing body for the sport of speed skating in the United States. The Organization has won 86 Olympic medals to-date, making it one of the most successful sports in U.S. Olympic history. US Speedskating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, on Facebook and at www.usspeedskating.org.