

Liu carries U.S. medal hopes for women's free skate

BY DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

MILAN — Alysia Liu is left to bear the ambitions of the American figure skating team on Thursday night, when the last of the "Blade Angels" with a legitimate shot at the Olympic gold medal tries to catch Japanese teammates Ami Nakai and Kaori Sakamoto during the women's free skate at the Milan Cortina Games.

Nakai, Sakamoto and Mone Chiba give Japan the chance for the first-ever women's podium sweep.

Then there is Adelina Petrosian, the young Russian sprite competing as a neutral athlete, and the only one of the contenders who has the ability to land a quad jump. She could shake up the entire competition with one big performance.

Those are the key players as the final night of figure skating drama unfolds at the Winter Games.

"Of course I want a medal. It would be very nice," said Sakamoto, the bronze medalist from the 2022 Beijing Games, who trails Nakai by just a point in what is likely her final Olympics. "But I want to let everybody know what I've done over my career. I want people to know that there was a skater of this kind in Japan who had performed for a long period."

Indeed, the Olympic gold medal is just about the only thing the 25-year-old Sakamoto



NATACHA PISARENKO/Associated Press

Alysia Liu of the United States competes during the women's short program figure skating at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Milan, Italy, Tuesday.

has yet to win in her career.

At the opposite end of the longevity spectrum is Nakai, the 17-year-old inspired by the great Mao Asada. She will be the final skater on the ice after a brilliant performance Tuesday night, when she landed one of two triple axels in the entire women's short program.

Chiba trails both of her Japanese teammates along with Liu, but the world bronze medalist is firmly in the mix.

"Being in Italy, with the music 'Romeo and Juliet,' I hope to skate as well as possible," Chiba said, "and see how things are."

Liu, who is two points out of first place, was the only skater

to wedge herself among the Japanese trio.

The 20-year-old from the San Francisco Bay area has been on a dream ride ever since her two-year retirement, which had allowed her to reprioritize the

things in her life and rediscover her love for skating. Liu became the first American world champion since Kimmie Meissner in 2006 last year in Boston, and now she could end an even longer U.S. drought for women at the Olympics.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" has not played for a podium ceremony since Sarah Hughes triumphed at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

"I don't think about stuff like that," said the carefree Liu, who finished sixth at the Beijing Games, shortly before walking away from the sport. "My goal is just to do my program and share my story."

Petrosian is the wildcard in the competition simply because she is so largely unknown.

The 18-year-old from Moscow has been unable to compete on a global stage because Russia remains banned from international events fol-

lowing its invasion of Ukraine. The few glimpses that people have seen have come from domestic events, where scores are typically inflated, and where the competition is far different from what Petrosian is experiencing at the Olympics.

Yet the latest pupil of controversial coach Eteri Tutberidze, Petrosian has proven in Milan that she could well become her nation's next gold medalist, following in the footsteps of compatriots Adelina Sotnikova, Alina Zagitova and

Anna Shcherbakova.

The last non-Russian to win the Olympic gold medal was South Korea's Yuna Kim at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

"At first I was worried, not about my skate, but about my (emotional) state. This was the most important start of my life," Petrosian said following her short program Tuesday night. "I hope this will help me with my free skate."



LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Elizabethtown will receive sealed bids for the West Railroad Avenue Improvement project at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3rd floor, 200 West Dixie Avenue, P.O. Box 550, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702 until 10:00 AM local time on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The successful bidder shall provide performance and payment bonds, proof of insurance and licenses as specified. Project to be funded with Community Development Block Grant funds. Davis-Bacon wages will apply. Project plans, specifications, and bid forms will be available as of as of Monday, February 16th; and they may be obtained electronically from the City of Elizabethtown at no charge by emailing your request to melissa.harrell-nepi@elizabethtownky.gov.

The scope of the project generally consists of, but not limited to, providing all labor, equipment, materials, supplies, tools and supervision necessary to improve street and sidewalk/curb/gutter conditions along West Railroad Avenue from the East Crutcher Street intersection and spanning to East Brown Street/Walnut Street intersection.

The City of Elizabethtown reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to let the contract as a whole or for any part, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received.

/s/ Jeffrey H. Gregory, Mayor
Attest: Jessica J. Graham, City Clerk



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Elizabethtown Planning Commission will hold public hearings on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, located at 212 West Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The hearings will be held to consider the following: Assignment of a zoning district classification for a proposed annexation of properties presently in Hardin County on the northwest side Leitchfield Rd., approximately 200 feet east of Hwy 86, extending northeast approximately 2300 feet to the existing City Boundary. Said properties are known as Parcel Number 168-00-00-015.02, containing approximately 17.89 acres, and parcel number 168-00-00-0153.03, containing approximately 1.68 acres on the northwest side of Leitchfield Rd. 2026-PC-03 A Zoning Map Amendment request to change the zoning classification from C-1 Neighborhood Office to C-2 Neighborhood Commercial for property located at 106 East Memorial Drive Hearing No. 2026-PC-04 A Zoning Map Amendment request to change the zoning classification from R-4 Urban Residential to C-5 Downtown mixed use for property located at 237 W Poplar Street. Hearing No. 2026-PC-05

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