

The happiest ladies skater at Finlandia Trophy was surely Alisa Mikonsaari, who held onto her third place till the end of the competition. This was Mikonsaari's first medal from an international competition. The clear winner was Sofia Biryukova from Russia with total scores of 159,59. She was first both in the short and free programs. Elena Glebova from Estonia was second, scoring 143,74.

Alisa Mikonsaari is really happy with her bronze medal even though she graded her performance only as satisfactory. Since last season she has got a lot more confidence and her performing is more relaxed.

- This was a really good beginning for the new season. I am very surprised and happy for my third place. However, I still have a lot of work to do, Mikonsaari told.

Mikonsaari trains both in Lappeenranta, Finland and Saint Petersburg, Russia. In Finland she is coached by Marina Shirshova and in Russia by Alexei Urmanov, the 1994 Olympic Champion. She says her goal for this season is the European Championships.

For Beata Papp who finished fourth at Finlandia Trophy was the end of a long series of international competitions. She was not tired of all the competing, though, but could skate at her own level especially in her free program. Papp lives and trains in Vancouver. From Finland she will return Canada to go to school, where she has been only for two weeks this semester.

- I had a very good competition. Technically this was a strong performance even though I singled my salchow. I enjoyed performing and the experience to compete here was great, Papp said.

Of Finnish skaters Minna Parviainen was fifth with total scores of 118,36, and Juulia Turkkila was sixth with total scores of 113,66.