

DANCE NEWS



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German Open Championships Amateur Standard Grand Slam

Part Three :: Bryan Allen's report concludes our coverage of the
German Open Championships :: See Also Editions 2092 and 2094



Four hundred and forty-eight couples entered, four hundred and eighteen started out, with a good overall level of performance. As a few of the leading couples were not taking part it opened up opportunities for others to impress the judges. Some certainly did so. Last year's runners up took first place this year. **Benedetto Ferruggia and Claudia Köhler (Germany)** who were understandably very popular with the audience but this was not only because they represent Germany. They are such good dancers and such very nice people. They were excellent throughout the contest and clearly winners. They only lost five of the possible 55 first placings. Still a little way to go to re-establish the freedom and joy of dance that has always been a hallmark but this was a most satisfactory showing.

Marat Gimaev and Alina Basyuk (Russia) took second prize. This couple trouble me greatly for they have so much to offer but there are elements that some are certain to consider very poor indeed. There can be no doubt that they are aware of the areas requiring attention and must be working on corrections. It would not be so important if they were not so potentially wonderful.



Clockwise, commencing immediately above: **Wiktor Kiszka and Margaret Garlicka**, placed fifth. **Simone Segatori and Annette Sudol**, placed third. **Federico Di Toro and Genny Favero**, placed sixth. The line-up of the **IDSF Amateur Standard Grand Slam** with **Carlos Freitag**, President of the **IDSF**, from left to right: **Alina Basyuk & Marat Gimaev** (runners-up), **Claudia Köhler & Benedetto Ferruggia** (winners), **Annette Sudol & Simone Segatori** (3rd), **Olga Konovaltseva & Sergey Konovaltsev** (4th), **Margaret Garlicka & Wiktor Kiszka** (5th), **Genny Favero & Federico Di Toro** (6th). **Sergey Konovaltsev and Olga Konovaltseva**, placed fourth. **Marat Gimaev and Alina Basyuk**, runners-up. Photographs by **Frédéric Lepretre and Karine Bisson** of dance-photos.com France.



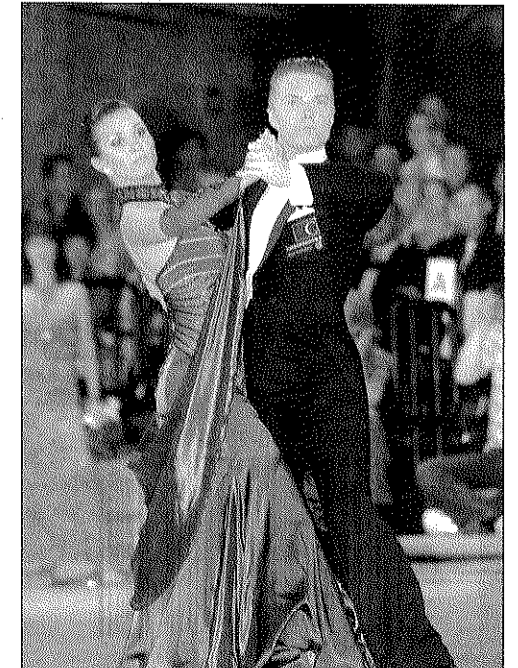
Simone Segatori and Annette Sudol (Germany) finishing third really impressed me. They were so very classy, polished, and delightful. A significant change has been made. It was undoubtedly an excellent performance of greatly improved dance quality.

Sergey Konovaltsev and Olga Konovaltseva (Russia) were fourth. What to say about this couple? They are so attractive and highly skilled but in this competition they just went beyond reasonable limits. It was crazy. Yes they flew around the

floor at amazing speed. Yes it really excited the audience, but at what cost? A little more calmness, a little more attention to the performance requirements for Ballroom dancing and the world could so easily be yours.

Wiktor Kiszka and Margaret Garlicka (Poland) took fifth position. They were very well together with strong feet and legs. They are confident exponents but the favourable impression created is diluted because of the rather hard back and shoulder line. A pity.

Federico Di Toro and Genny Favero (Italy) must have felt disappointed being placed in sixth position. They seemed to be trying so hard to get the performance level up but it just did not happen for them. Perhaps that is the answer. They tried too hard, for they usually show very good quality. It was particularly noticeable in the Solo Foxtrot section where some ankle distortion was noted plus a rather sharp and too fast action was displayed. So unlike their previous, and hopefully future, performances.



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