

Dance News

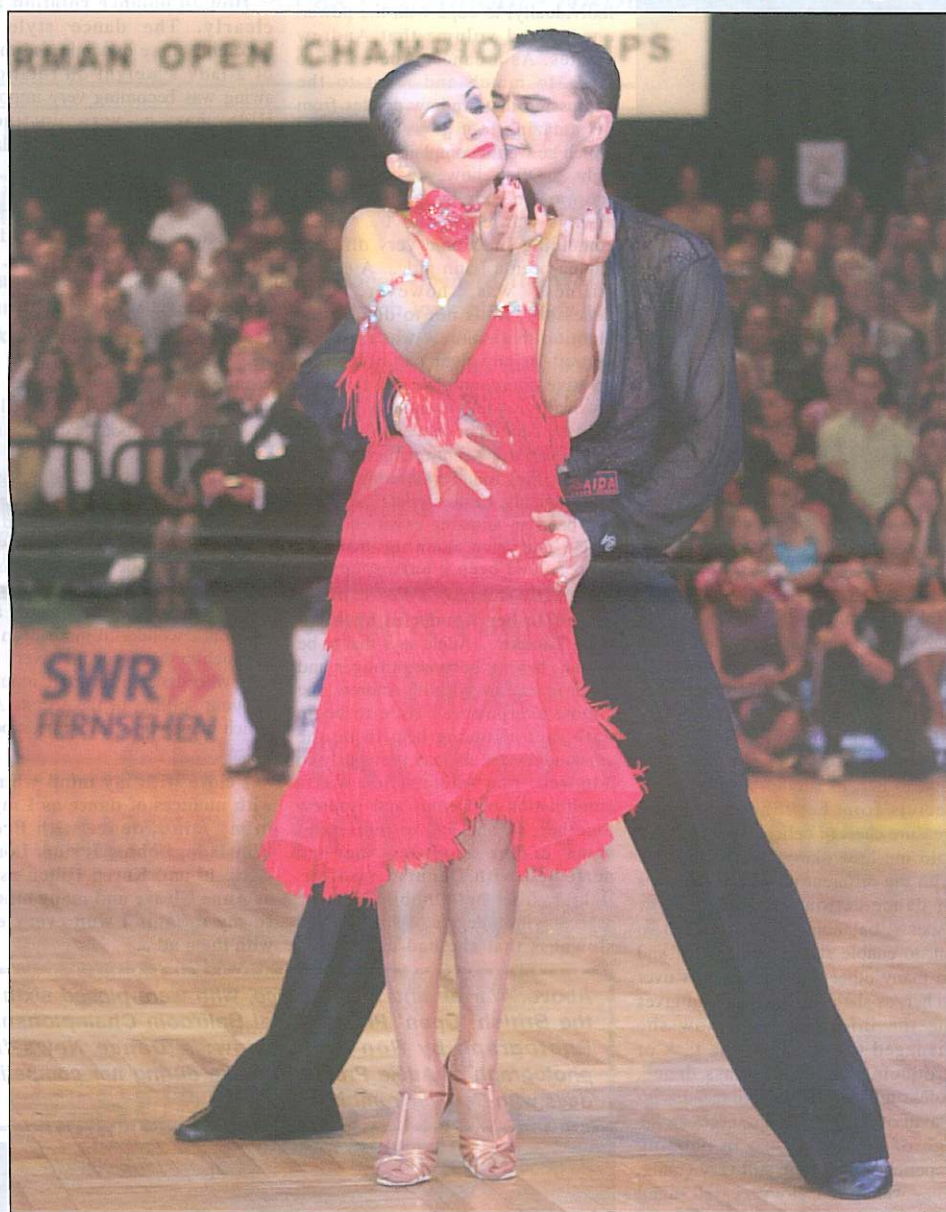
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* "Stuttgart And The 'German Open' Have Become One" *

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Ann Baker Reports From The Liederhalle, Stuttgart



The German 'Open' Championships are very firmly established in the diary of most of the world's competition dancers and enthusiasts. This, the twenty-third presentation, continued the great tradition and drew entries in excess of four thousand six hundred couples from fifty countries. Of course there were a number of 'no-shows' as might be expected with Visa difficulties, the credit crunch and other such matters. Four thousand six hundred and fourteen couples entered, three thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight took part, twenty-six percent unable to attend for one reason or another.

The splendid organisation with three different ballrooms working simultaneously, panels of judges selected from the seventy four listed, all markings done on hand-held computer pads, a vast team of very well trained stewards, all backed up by a highly efficient backroom staff. The whole five days ran wonderfully well.

● ● Continued On Page Eight ● ●

Top right: The 2009 German 'Open' Professional Standard Champions, Mirko Gozzoli and Alessia Betti. Above: IDSF Grand Slam Amateur Latin winners, Alexey Silde and Anna Firstova. Right: The Professional Standard Championship podium, from left to right: Natascha & Sascha Karabey (Runners-up - Germany), Alessia Betti & Mirko Gozzoli (Champions - Italy), Silvia Pitton & Paolo Bosco (Third - Italy), Edita Danuïte & Angelo Madonia (Fourth - Lithuania), Julia Spesivtseva & Evgeny Kazmirchuk (Fifth - Russia), Iveta Lukosiute & Gherman Mustuc (Sixth - USA). Photographs by Frédéric Lepretre and Karine Bisson of dance-photos.com France.



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Ann Baker's report continues from Page One on the

23rd German Open Championships

"Stuttgart and the German Open have become one" was the conclusion of GOC Managing Director, Harry Körner, regarding this 23rd edition of the German Open Championships. Harry Körner must certainly feel delighted that the efforts of both himself and the whole team resulted in Stuttgart being the hub of the dancesport world for five days. All dance sport enthusiasts who could not attend were able to get small glimpses of the competitions by internet, press and TV coverage.

The German Open Championships is possibly the only dance event in the world where the leader of the nation sends a personal message to the organiser for inclusion in the Programme. We are indebted to the GOC Press Officer, Heidi Estler, for the translation produced below.

Message from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of the 23rd German Open Championships.

"As patron of the 23rd German Open Championships I offer warmest greetings to all dancers, judges and organisers as well as all friends and supporters of dancesport."

This year again, the spectators in the Liederhalle in Stuttgart can expect top-quality competitions in the disciplines Standard, Latin and boogie-woogie. Around 8000 Professional, Amateur and Junior dancers from all five continents will give of their best in a stunning display of elegant dancing and breathtaking athleticism. There will certainly be no lack of fascinating finals or exciting decisions over the five days of the competition.

I would like to thank all those who are helping to make the 23rd German Open Championships a success, in particular the many volunteers whose work is indispensable for the smooth running of such a large-scale event.

I wish all participants the success to which they aspire and the organisers that everything goes smoothly. And not least, I hope the spectators will experience a thrilling Championship and very enjoyable days ahead."



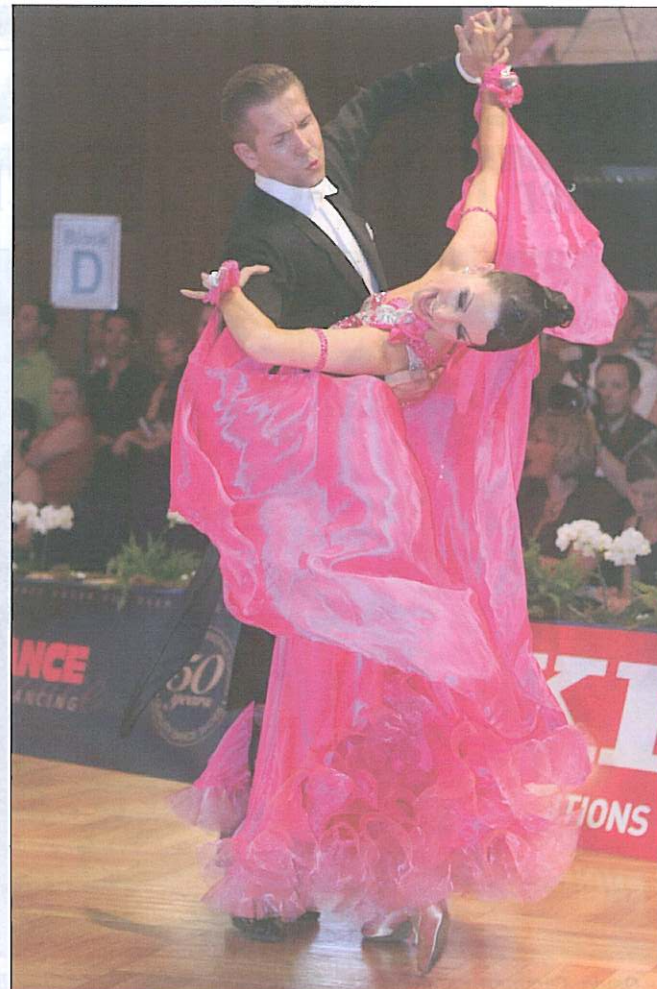
The German Open Championship Professional Ballroom WDC World Series. The entry was forty couples. There was a real feeling of excited expectation in the Beethoven Halle on the evening of the first day and we weren't disappointed. The atmosphere was electric with the competitors responding to it and creating further excitement

The winners, continuing their long-running success in the German Open Professional Championship, were Mirko Gozzoli and Alessia Betti from Italy. Dancing to this audience and in this hall brings out a further dimension to their performance, some fun with Paolo Bosco and Silvia Pitton in the quarter and semi final sent the crowd wild, it was very good humoured in a gentle and tasteful way. Mirko and Alessia showed their undoubted mastery of balance, action and choreography. It's really lovely to see some slows and recognisable standard figures in Quickstep danced by them, so clever and brave. They clearly won all five dances.

In second place were Sascha and Natascha Karabey from Germany, what a great result for them. Some improve-

ment was noted and of course they have a big, bold unique style so well suited to this environment, Sascha doesn't always project his love of dance and at times looked tense in his expression, such a shame, as they are lovely to watch. They were placed second in all dances.

In 3rd place were Paolo Bosco and Silvia Pitton from Italy. Dancing very much to the audience, I think they love to dance here and are very well known to this knowledgeable audience. They were really on fire with no holds barred. At times Paolo pulls his top and head



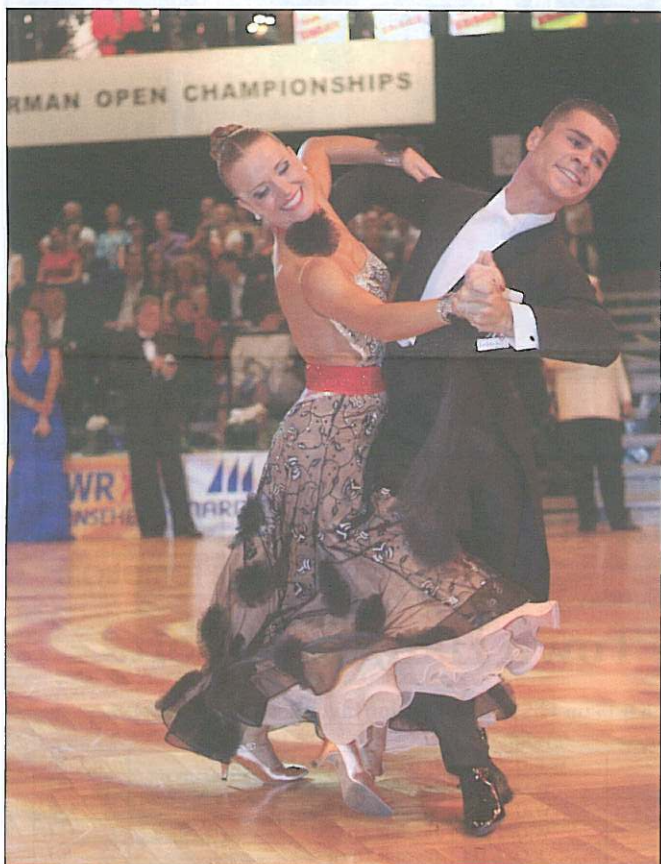
back which, for me, takes away the traditional visual look and loses some masculinity. A fantastic Quickstep, so together and fast, this was also noted in the other dances. Silvia is such a beautiful, flexible partner. Their placings of 43433 were only just enough to get them into the Bronze Medal position.

4th place went to the Lithuanian couple Angelo Madonia and Edita Danuite. What an interesting picture, a masculine man and a fine, delicate woman, it just looks so attractive. Their dancing one minute is lovely but the next it sort of disappears, maybe that's expected with a fairly new partnership but when it becomes consistent watch out everyone. Tango was fabulous. Just missing out on third place, placed 34344 in the five dances.

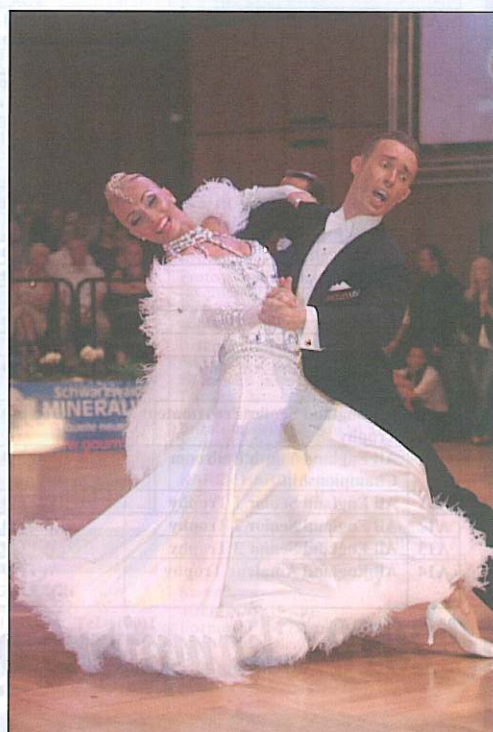
5th were Evgeny Kazmirchuk and Julia Spesivtseva from Russia. They were always catching the eye in the earlier rounds with their powerful, bold dancing. The man shows some arching in his back but they have talent and I'm sure we may be seeing so much more of them and from them.

6th place went to Gherman Mustuc and Iveta Lukosiute from the U.S.A. Congratulations to them for making this final; no mean feat when there were such good strong couples in the semifinal. A quieter, softer and more mature approach from this couple but in comparison to the other finalists they looked a little tired in this last round.

PART TWO
In A Future Edition



Pictured on this page are the remaining finalists of the German Open Professional Ballroom WDC World Series, from top to bottom: Runners-up, Sascha and Natascha Karabey. Paolo Bosco and Silvia Pitton, placed third. Angelo Madonia and Edita Danuite, placed fourth. Below left: Evgeny Kazmirchuk and Julia Spesivtseva, placed fifth. Below right: Gherman Mustuc and Iveta Lukosiute, placed sixth. Photographs by Frédéric Lepretre and Karine Bisson of dance-photos.com France.



The MOST Spectacular Dance Festival

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Dutch Open 2009

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INFORMATION:
Fred Bijster
J.B.weg 6
7991 RG Dwingeloo
Holland

Tel: +31- 521- 592071 / +31- 521- 593771

E-mail: info@dansinternationaal.nl / info@dancemasters.nl
Website: www.dansinternationaal.nl