

DANCE NEWS



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German 'Open' Championships WDC World Series Professional

Latin : PART FOUR : Ann Baker's report concludes this week

In analysing the difference between the top Latin dancers and those climbing the ladder, the conclusion became; Better posture, understanding their weight in relation to the floor and partner, quality of actions, recognisable figures built on the fundamental basis and characterisation of each dance, choreography to show all these skills and knowledge. First place, from an entry of fifty-eight couples, went to Riccardo Cocchi and Yulia Zargouyenko from the U.S.A. Placed first in all five dances. A couple with a very individual style, unique and clever choreography. Beautiful leg actions from Yulia, not seen enough though as the choreography did not lend itself to show off her skills. A really confident, balanced, female dancer with a lovely attitude and presentation. Riccardo is a clever male dancer who showed a very strong, expressive Paso Doble tonight, particularly in hold. It was most readable and recognisable. He must be a fantastic leader to be able to pull off their tricky choreography with panache. There were some body rhythms missing tonight which is very unusual for Riccardo.



Pictured, top to bottom: The line-up of the WDC World Series Professional Latin with prize presenter, Oliver Wessel-Therhorn. Runners-up, Sergey Surkov and Melia. Rachid Malki and Anna Suprun, placed sixth. Franco Formica and Oxana Lebedew, placed third. Photographs by Frédéric Lepretre and Karine Bisson of dance-photos.com France.



Their Paso Doble was fantastic, strong, powerful yet artistic and took their focus back to each other and their roles in this dance

Fourth place went to Markus Homm and Ksenia Kasper from Germany (44444). They are improving with each outing, nicely connected to the floor and each other. They showed great quality, being easier, more rounded than most of the couples but I wondered if it would show up as much. It obviously did.

In fifth place were Emanuele Soldi and Elisa Nasato from Italy (66555). Very strong and convincing, they command you to look at them. They also danced an excellent Paso Doble. Emanuele and Elisa had the performance to finish higher.

6th place Rachid Malki and Anna Suprun from Norway 55666. Back on track. Great costumes and presentation, individual to them. They stood out right from the start. Quality, enthusiastic commitment. Everything under control but exciting. Rachid has great body rhythm; Anna is classy and very readable to watch with her lovely foot and leg action.

With the UKA

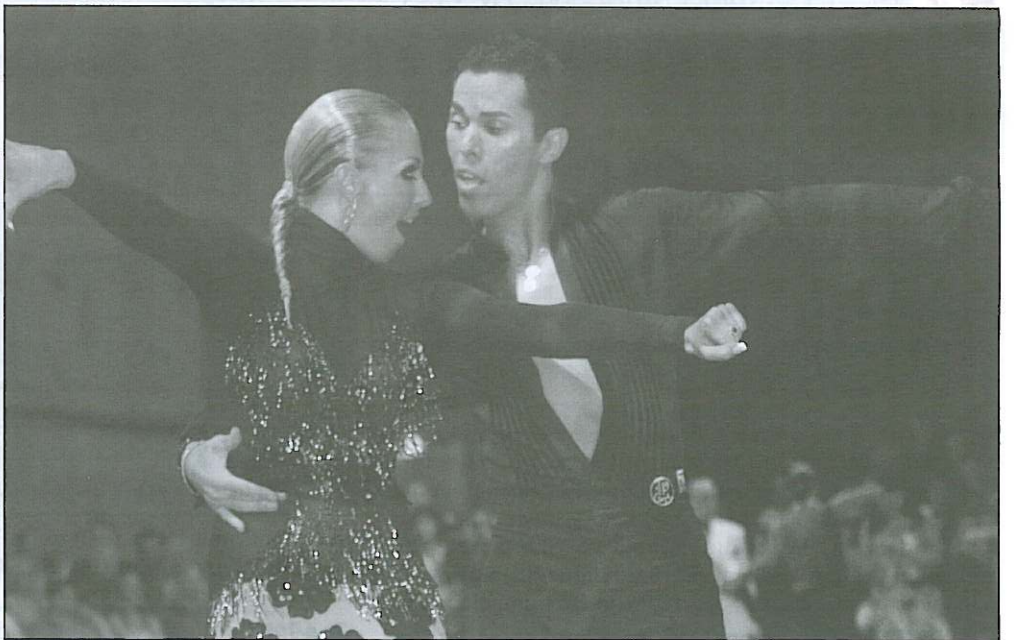
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In second place were Sergey Surkov and Melia from Russia (23222). You just have to admire this couple, always searching, making changes and improving. A different approach and attitude with a sylph like Melia, looking quite fascinating. On fire tonight with great body usage from Sergey, offering a totally different look. Very masculine, very feminine, a very good balance in the look and presentation. Still a little too crowd focused but they love to reach out and get the reaction and maybe it has a positive effect on their performance.

Third were Franco Formica and Oxana Lebedew from Germany (32333). Again a different style, it was so interesting and exciting. Undoubted skill, artistry and talent but they seemed so obsessed with the audience in a lot of the dances. Franco didn't look as balanced and earthy. How could he ignore his fantastic partner so much. I suppose dancing in their own country to an audience who loves them and wants them to win is a temptation that cannot be missed? I feel Oxana suffered because of this but she also made the same decision, to project a lot of her dancing to the audience.

