

ISU CS 27th NEPELA MEMORIAL

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA SEPTEMBER 19 – 21, 2019

Speech by the Mayor

27th edition of the traditional international figure skating event Nepela Memorial 2019 held under the Mayor's auspices

Ladies and gentlemen, dear residents of Bratislava, dear sports fans and guests!

For several years, the Nepela Memorial has been one of the most prestigious international figure skating competitions held at the Ondrej Nepela Winter Stadium in Bratislava. Ondrej Nepela was a star and a legend who represented our city and our country, earning a good name for it in the world. We are proud of him. We will be equally proud of any figure skater whose success in this beautiful sport follows that of Nepela's.

This will be the 27th edition of the memorial and Bratislava will welcome well-known figure skating names coming to compete for victory. I am pleased that elite sports other than ice hockey and football continue to attract interest in Bratislava. The recent Women's European Volleyball Championship also enjoyed great participation and atmosphere, as did other sporting events. I am sure that this is a great satisfaction for the hard work and dedication you athletes give to your sport and I wish as many fans as possible can enjoy your performances at the stadium.

I am glad that this event continues to keep its high profile and that the city's visitors and residents can look forward to a high-quality programme presented by figure skaters representing their countries. At the same time, I would like to thank the Slovak Figure Skating Association, which has been working to prepare and organise the Ondrej Nepela Memorial and which keeps earning a good name for your sport and our city.

Have a lovely time and enjoy the performances!



Matúš Vallo Mayor of city of Bratislava

Speech by the President of the Slovak Figure Skating Association

Ladies and Gentleman, dear figure skating family,

On behalf of the organizing committee and Slovak Figure Skating Associaton, allow me to welcome you in Bratislava at the 27th Nepela Memorial, a part of ISU Challenger Series, an International Competition named after the best known and most successful figure skater from former Czechoslovakia.

Born in Bratislava, raised by his only coach Mrs. Hilda Múdra, Ondrej Nepela took part in his first Winter Olympic Games at age 13 and during the next 9 seasons he became 8 times Czechoslovak National Champion, 5 times European Champion, 3 times World Champion and in Sapporo at the Winter Olympic Games back in 1972, he highlighted his skating career with Gold Olympic Medal.

Ondrej Nepela was awarded the Best Slovak Athlete Trophy of the 20th century by Slovak republic. And earlier this year Ondrik has been honored as he has been named a member of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

We appreciate much and would like to express our thanks to all of you, who participate and help to make this event successful. The International Skating Union, the City of Bratislava, the Mayor of Bratislava, Mr. Matúš Vallo, to name a few, as well as to all the sponsors, supporters, volunteers and friends.

We are looking forward to seeing you, the figure skaters, skating and performing to the best of your abilities. We certainly hope, that the long hours you have spent on and off the ice each and every day, will pay off, and after leaving Bratislava, you will have the fondest memories of a job well done.

For that and for the whole season we wish you best of luck!



Jozef BeständigPresident of the Slovak Figure Skating Association

ONDREJ NEPELA

Ondrej Nepela (January 22, 1951 in Bratislava, Slovakia – February 2, 1989 in Mannheim, Germany) was an Olympic gold medalist and three-time World champion Slovak figure skater who competed for Czechoslovakia in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Nepela began skating at age 7. He was coached by Hilda Múdra. His fi rst major international competition, at age 13, was the 1964 Winter Olympics; he finished 22nd. He went on to win fi ve the European Figure Skating Championships five times between 1969 to 1973; the World Figure Skating Championships in 1971, 1972, and 1973; and the 1972 Winter Olympics. Nepela wanted to retire from competition after the 1972 season, but agreed to continue one more year because the 1973 World Figure Skating Championships were to be held in his home town of Bratislava.

In his second autobiography, Toller Cranston details a sexual tryst between himself and Nepela at 1973 World Championships.[1] Cranston was distracted and affected by their sexual affair and placed 5th while Nepela won the event and even earned a 6.0 during his free skate. Following his amateur skating career, Nepela toured for 13 years as a soloist with Holiday on Ice. He then established himself as a coach in Germany. He coached Claudia Leistner to her European title in 1989. Nepela died of AIDS-related complications in 1989, at the age of 38. Since 1993, the Slovak Figure Skating Association has held a competition each fall called the Ondrej Nepela Memorial. In December 2000, the Slovak Republic named him Slovakian athlete of the century. His former coach, Mudra, received the award on his behalf.



WELCOME TO BRATISLAVA

Bratislava is the only capital in the world located on the border of three sovereign states – Slovakia, Austria and Hungary. Besides its strategic location on the River Danube, the city takes pride in its rich history. The first Celtic oppidum was founded here in the 2nd century BC.

The location at the intersection of two important historical trade routes, the Danube and Amber Roads, highly influenced the development of trade and handicraft. For 247 years was Bratislava the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom (1536 – 1783) and for 267 years also the coronation city (1563 – 1830).

It experienced rapid growth under the reign of Maria Theresia crowned the queen of Hungary 1741 and the Bratislava Castle became a representative royal seat. Not only the Castle, but also the newly built aristocratic Baroque and Rococo palaces enjoyed bustling political, social and cultural life enriched by visits of musical genii, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Haydn or Franz Liszt. After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, Bratislava started to profile as a modern European metropolis and an attractive tourist destination.



BASIC INFORMATION

Location:

65 km far from Vienna, 200 km from Budapest and 330 km from Prague. The largest airport in Central Europe, Vienna International, is 40 minutes away from Bratislava city centre by car, and the Bratislava Airport M.R. Štefánik only 15 minutes away.

THE VENUE

Ondrej Nepela Ice Rink, Odbojárov 9, 83104 Bratislava - Nové Mesto

The Ondrej Nepela Ice Rink is a fully air-conditioned and heated ice rink. The arena offers a comfortable auditorium with 10,000 seats and convenient social and sanitary facilities, including the equipment for the disabled who can easily enter the auditorium on wheel-chairs. It was fully reconstructed in 2011 prior the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships. The whole complex has one main ice rink of the size 60x28 m and two practice ice rinks. It is a home to the Slovan Ice Hockey Team. The stadium is named in honour of Ondrej Nepela, Slovak figure skater who competed for Czechoslovakia in the late 1960s and early 1970s and he is the 1972 Winter Olympics figure skating winner.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Bratislava lies in the north temperate zone and has a moderately continental climate. It is often windy with a marked variation between hot summers and cold, humid winters. The city is in one of the warmest and driest parts of Slovakia. The average temperatures from June to September vary between 21 °C and 25 °C with average maximum of 25 °C in September.

HOTEL

Hotel for Teams

Lindner Hotel Gallery Central Metodova 4, 82108 Bratislava, Slovakia

phone: +421 2 39930 000

web: lindner.de/en/bratislava-hotel-gallery-central

INFORMATION

For information, please contact the Organizing Committee: Slovak Figure Skating Association, Záhradnícka 95, 82108 Bratislava

Contact person: Mr. Csaba Kürti, General secretary

e-mail: nepela.memorial@gmail.com

mobile: +421 918791227

PARTNERS

































	Thursday		Friday			Saturday		
		nber 19 th		eptember 20 th		eptember 2		
	MR	Off-Ice	MR	Off-Ice	MR		Off-Ice	
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20:00 -		Judges Draw &	s		VC L,D,M]		20:00
20:30		Meeting						20:30
21:00		Hotel 20:30 Opening and					20:30 Closing	21:00
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22:30 -								22:30
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	MR Main Rink PR Practice Rink			DR Draw		RTD Round Table Discussion TPM Technical Panel Meeting		
		ce Rink Program/Danc		15 min after previous ever Victory Ceremony	#IIL		al Panel Meetin al Panel Review	-
		kating/Dance		Starting Order				

SUBJECT TO CHANGES!