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Japan wins its first-ever Olympic pairs skating gold – 19th February 2026

Level 0

Japan has won its first Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara also set a world record. After the first round, the pair did not look like getting a medal. They knew they would need some magic. Their performance was golden. It was full of speed and technique.

The couple were shocked after winning. Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined to nail it." He added: "I never thought we could win gold." Ms Miura said: "We have grown a lot, so I think that is the reason why we managed to win the gold medal." Their coach said: "I think today they were able to create magic."

Level 1

Japan has won its first Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Figure skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara were first in the pairs free skate competition. Their performance set a world record. After the first round, the pair did not look like getting a medal. They knew they would need some magic. Their routine was an amazing display of speed and technique. The crowd at the ice skating arena gave the pair a standing ovation.

The couple were shocked after winning. An out-of-breath Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined to nail it." He added: "I never thought we could win gold today." The couple first skated together in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have grown a lot, so I think that is the reason why we managed to win the gold medal." Their coach praised them. He said: "I think today they were able to create magic. They skated with their heart."

Level 2

Japan has won its first Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Figure skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara wowed a very supportive crowd. They were first in the pairs free skate competition. Their dynamic performance set a world record. After the first round, the pair did not look like getting a medal. They knew they would have to do something magical to get a medal. And they did that. Their routine was an amazing display of athleticism, speed, and technique. The spectators at the Milano Ice Skating Arena gave the pair a standing ovation.

The couple seemed shocked after winning. An out-of-breath Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined to nail it." He added: "It's still unbelievable. I never thought we could win gold today." The couple first skated together in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have had so many experiences...and we have grown a lot, so I think that is the reason why we managed to win the gold medal." Their coach praised them. He said: "I think today they were able to create magic. They skated with their heart. Their connection really came through, and it was just pure magic."

Level 3

Japan has scooped its first-ever Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Ice skater Riku Miura and her partner Ryuichi Kihara dazzled a highly appreciative crowd on their way to placing first in the pairs free skate competition. Their outstanding and dynamic performance also set a world record. After the first round, the pair were a fair way down the field of contenders for gold. They knew they would have to pull out all the stops to have any chance of getting a medal. And they did that with aplomb. Their routine was a stunning display of athleticism, daring, speed, and technique. The spectators at the Milano Ice Skating Arena gave the duo a standing ovation to thunderous applause.

The couple seemed shell-shocked after leaving the ice to speak to waiting reporters. An out-of-breath Mr Kihara exclaimed: "We were determined to nail it." He added: "It's still unbelievable. I never thought we could win gold today, so it feels incredibly good." The couple first teamed up in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have had so many experiences over the past seven years and we have grown a lot, so I think that is the reason why we managed to triumph and win the gold medal." Their coach, Bruno Marcotte, showered them with praise. He said: "I think today they were able to create magic. They skated with their heart. Their connection really came through, and it was just pure magic."