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The International Olympic Committee (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS AND ALL ONLINE PLATFORMS FREE OF CHARGE.

Story Headline: Jake Vedder wins the United States of America's seventh Lillehammer 2016 gold in the Men's Snowboard Cross

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 15 February

Place: Hafjell, Norway

STORY SCRIPT

Jake Vedder has won the United States of America's seventh gold medal of the Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games in the Men's Snowboard Cross.

The 17-year-old, from Pinckney in Michigan, secured top spot on the podium by collecting 130.00 race points, ahead of Australia's Alex Dickson (104.00) and Sebastian Pietrzykowski of Germany (78.00).

Vedder was also Michigan Regional Champion in the Snowboard Cross for eight consecutive years between 2006 and 2014.

In total, 1100 athletes from 71 nations are competing at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Lillehammer Norway for a total of 70 Gold medals.

The 2nd Winter YOG is taking place between Friday 12th & Sunday 21st of February 2016.

Snowboard Cross explained.

Age Group: Born between 1 January 1998 - 31 December 1999

Number of Athletes: 40

Venue: Hafjell Alpine Centre

Men's Snowboard Cross



Both events consist of qualification and finals (finals consisting of group heats, semi-finals, the small final and big final.)

The specially designed cross course is set up on a natural terrain with artificial features including turns, roller sections, jumps and banked turns.

In the qualification, the competitors take one or two timed runs, and the best of the two runs counts. The top 16 ranked competitors go through to the finals. In the finals, competitors are divided into group heats of four competitors. There are 20 group heats in the “round robin” format. All competitors eventually compete against each other and, based upon the ranking of each heat, are awarded points (1st=4 pts, 2nd=3 pts, 3rd=2 pts, 4th=1 pt.). After the group heats, the top eight ranked competitors advance to the semifinals. The top two ranked competitors from each advance to the big final, while the remaining competitors move to the small final.

The top three competitors in the big final are awarded YOG medals, the remaining competitors are ranked according to results of the qualification and semi-final.

What are the YOG?

The Youth Olympic Games are essentially about competing, learning and sharing. They are a celebration of sport, youth diversity and the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect. They also exemplify the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, blending sport with culture and education. The vision of the Youth Olympic Games is to inspire young people around the world to participate in sport and live by the Olympic values.

YOG Key Facts

- Hosted from 12 to 21 February 2016 in Lillehammer, Hamar, Gjøvik, Øyer and Oslo — demonstrating the use of a fantastic legacy of Olympic venues and the flexibility of the YOG.
- 71 NOCs and 1,100 athletes aged 15 to 18 will compete in 70 medal events at Lillehammer 2016.
- Lillehammer 2016 is the second winter edition of the YOG following Innsbruck 2012. The first summer edition took place in Singapore in 2010, followed by Nanjing in 2014.
- The YOG have been used as an incubator for innovation in sport and education. Lillehammer 2016 will feature Olympic debuts for a number of disciplines, including cross-country cross, snowboard cross, ski slopestyle, biathlon super sprint and monobob.
- With regard to education, the Coaches’ Corner will be a pioneering YOG first in Lillehammer, featuring dedicated workshops and talks by experts and Virtual



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Reality (VR) technology to explore and explain how new advances in technology can be applied to the science of coaching.

- The YOG have acted as a springboard to further Olympic glory for many alumni. Some 64 YOG athletes from Innsbruck 2012, for example, went on to compete at the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014, winning 6 medals in total. In addition, 200 YOG alumni from Singapore 2010 competed at London 2012, of whom 25 medalled.

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