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Story Headline: **Men's Individual Skeleton title taken by the Russian Federation's Evgenii Rukosuev**

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games
Date: 19 February
Place: Lillehammer, Norway

**STORY SCRIPT**

The Russian Federation’s Evgenii Rukosuev has won gold in the Men’s Individual Skeleton at the Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

The 16-year-old, from Sport school Krasnoyarsk, claimed top spot on the podium with a total time of 1:47.30, over half a second ahead of Norway’s Alexander Hestengen (1:47.94) and Robin Schneider of Germany (1:48.10).

Rukosuev calls the Russian Federation's Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics skeleton competitor Nikita Tregubov his hero.

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.

**Skeleton explained.**

**Age Group:** Born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2001

**Quota:** 20

**Venue:** Lillehammer Olympic Sliding Centre

**Men's Skeleton**
In Skeleton, athletes ride head first and face down, hands and arms tucked close to their bodies.

Both events are held over two heats. Results are calculated by adding the times of both competition heats together with the lowest aggregate time winning.

In the programme there are six training heats to be held over three days. Pilots must have successfully completed at least two practice heats to qualify for the competition.

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 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 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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