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STORY HEADLINE: GOLD MEDALS FOR RACE WALKER RICU XI (CHN), CABEZAS CARACAS (COL) AND JAVELIN THROWER ELINA TZENKO (GRE) IN THE EARLY ACTION FROM FINAL DAY OF ATHLETICS AT BUENOS AIRES 2018

DATE: 16 October, 2018
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
LANGUAGE: English, Mandarin, Greek, Spanish

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:

The final day of the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires athletics took place in glorious sunshine on Tuesday (16th October).

Ricuo Xi of China took the gold medal in the women's 5000 metre race walk with a combined time of 45:03.49.

Sofia Elizabeth Ramos Rodriguez of Mexico took the silver medal with a combined time of 45:58.97 while the bronze went to Olga Fiaska of Greece for her time of 46:10.02.

The same three - in the same order - had led the standings after stage one of the competition.

The women's 400 metres hurdles was the first track race final of the day.

Cabezas Caracas of Colombia built on her potential from the stage one races to storm to victory in a time of 58.39 seconds to take the gold medal.

Silver went to Loubna Benhadja of Algeria with a time of 59.70 seconds, while Canadian athlete Julia Lovesin took the bronze in 59.89 seconds - both new personal bests.

But there was frustration and heartbreak for Brazilian Jessica Vitoria de Oliveira Moreira who had raced a personal best of 59.41 seconds in the stage one race, but fell towards the end of the stage two race when she was still in medal contention.

16 year old Elina Tzengko of Greece won the Women's 500g javelin throw gold medal.

She had topped the standings after stage one with a Personal Best of 63.34 metres which significantly outstripped all of her rivals.
Her best effort in stage two was 61.74 metres with her first of four throws, and more than enough to finish top of the podium.

The silver medal went to Ying Wang of China with 57.14 metres while Munevrei Hanci of Turkey threw 57.06 metres to take the bronze medal.

Buenos Aires 2018 is the third edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) to be held, bringing together the world’s best young athletes between the ages of 15 and 18. For the first time in Olympic history the Games will have gender equality, with equal numbers of males and females competing in the 32-sport programme.

Almost 4,000 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees will be competing for 1,250 medals. The Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 feature new sports and many new disciplines and events, reflecting the passions of the ‘Game Changers’, a new generation of athletes and fans.

The event offers a glimpse into the future of the Games as the new programme will introduce several innovations that will be replicated at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The first Summer Youth Olympic Games took place in Singapore in 2010. The second edition was held in the Chinese city of Nanjing in 2014.

SHOTLIST:

00:04 Various shots of Ricuo Xi during the Women’s 5000m Race Walk
00:17 Ricuo Xi crossing the finish line
00:21 Xi celebrates her victory
00:25 Ricuo Xi poses with the flag of the People’s Republic of China
00:30 Women’s 5000m Race Walk winner Ricuo Xi receives gold medal

00:37 SOUNDbite: Ricuo Xi, Women’s 5000 metre walk Champion (Mandarin Language) [On her training]
“我感觉训练就还可以，不是很累，因为自己喜欢嘛，自己感觉不到累。”
It's like a hobby so I don't find it too boring or tough. And the result is worth it, worth the training.

00:46 Detail of Xi holding her gold medal

00:49 SOUNDbite: Ricuo Xi, Women’s 5000 metre walk Champion (Mandarin Language) [On holding the flag]
“特别开心就是能…能…能举国旗吧，为祖国争光吧很开心。”
I am very proud when I'm holding the Chinese flag and walking around. So I'm very proud and I feel happy and excited.

01:00 Detail of Colombian Cabezas Caracas before the start of the women’s 400m hurdles final
01:05 Action of the 400m hurdles final
01:12 Valeria Cabezas Caracas celebrates with her coach
01:16 Slow motion action of Cabezas Caracas during the race
01:22 The Colombian athlete receives gold medal
01:29 SOUNDBITE: Valeria Cabezas Caracas, Women’s 400 metre hurdles Champion (Spanish Language) [on how she felt during the race]

"En realidad es que desde que salí confiaba mucho en mí. Y en realidad vi la medalla más cerca cuando estaba pasando la ultima valla. Y en realidad tenía de reflejo que iba pasando primero las vallas más rápido que las otras. Y allí me di cuenta, y tenía más de ánimo y mas coraje para poder lograr lo que quería. Que era la medalla de oro."

Actually I thought that I would win ever since the start of the race but with the last hurdle I just thought I saw the medal and I could see in the reflections that I was ahead and then this gave me more courage to keep on going and get the gold medal.

01:54 Detail of Cabezas Caracas’ gold medal
01:57 Action of Elina Tzengko at the Women’s 500g javelin competition
02:01 Detail of the trajectory of Tzengko’s javelin after her throw
02:04 Elina Tzengko smiles after her winning throw
02:07 Greece’s Elina Tzengko receives gold medal

02:15 SOUNDBITE: Elina Tzengko, Women’s 500g javelin Champion (Greek Language) [on how pleased she is to have won the gold medal]

"Νιώθω πάρα πολύ υπέροχα, προετοιμάστηκα πολύ καιρό για να κερδίσω αυτό το μετάλλιο, έχω ανακουφιστεί πάρα πολύ, δεν μπορώ να εκφράσω τα συναισθήματά μου, μόνο χαρά."

I feel wonderful, I have been preparing for a long time to win this medal, I am very relieved, I can not express my feelings, pure joy.

-- ENDS --

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