The first rowing medals of the Youth Olympic Games 2018 were decided on Tuesday, with the Men’s and Women’s junior pairs taking place over a 500 metre course in the Puerto Madero of Buenos Aires.

Italy won the first gold medal with their pair of Alberto Zamariola and Nicolas Castelnova winning in a time of 1:30.40.

Romanian duo Florin Nicolae Arteni-Fintinariu and Alexandru Laurentiu Danciu came second to take the silver medal, losing out by 0.25 seconds.

Felipe Modarelli and Tomas Herrera gave the host nation plenty to cheer by taking the bronze medal a further 0.32 seconds back.

In the Women’s race, the Greek pair of Maria Kryidou and Christina Bourmpou edged a tight finish to win the gold medal in a time of 1:40.00.

The Czech Republic duo of Anna Santruckova and Eliska Podrazilova had to settle for the silver medal, losing out on Gold by just 0.09 seconds.

Tabita Maftei and Alina Maria Baletchi of Romania took the bronze medal a further .20 seconds back.

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:

00:06 SOUNDBITE: Alberto Zamariola and Nicolas Castelnovo, Junior Men’s Pair gold medalists (Italian Language)
"È veramente importante e non penso di aver provato un’emozione più grande di adesso. Devo ringraziare tutte le persone che mi hanno permesso di arrivare qua. Dai miei allenatori a tutte le persone che mi hanno supportato, il mental coach, i miei compagni di squadra. Tutti. Perché senza di loro questo non sarebbe stato possibile: non sarebbe stato possibile."

This result is really important. I don't think I've ever experienced a greater emotion. I have to thank all the people who allowed me to get here. I thank all the people who supported me: my coach, my mental coach and all my teammates. I have to thank all of them, because without them this would not have been possible.

00:29 Wide shot Junior Men’s Pair final
00:55 Close up of Alberto Zamariola and Nicolas Castelnovo celebrating
01:09 Alberto Zamariola and Nicolas Castelnovo being presented with gold medals

01:30 SOUNDBITE: Christina Bourmpou, Junior Women’s Pair gold medal (Greek Language)
"Αυτό το μετάλλιο το χρυσό το ονειρεύομαι πάρα πολύ καιρό, ήταν το μετάλλιο που ήθελα να πάρω από τότε που ξεκίνησα κωπηλασία. Φυσικά, τώρα που το κατέκτησα, είναι πολύ ανάμεικτα τα συναισθήματα, αλλά είμαι πάρα πολύ χαρούμενη."

I have been dreaming of this medal for a very long time now, it is the medal I wanted to win ever since I started rowing. Of course, now I have won it, I have mixed feelings, but I'm extremely happy.

01:44 SOUNDBITE: Maria Kyridou, Junior Women’s Pair gold medal (Greek Language)
"Ήταν πολύ δύσκολος ο αγώνας, γιατί έχουμε συνηθίσει να κάνουμε δύο χιλιόμετρα, και τώρα ήταν μόνο 500 μέτρα, και από την αρχή μέχρι το τέλος έπρεπε να δώσουμε το 100%, και ήταν αρκετά δύσκολα γιατί έπρεπε να τα δώσουμε όλα."

It was a very difficult race, because we are used to the two-kilometer race, and this one was only 500 meters. We had to give 100% from start to finish, and this was quite difficult because we had to give it all.

02:00 Wide shot of Junior Women’s Pair Final
02:26 SOUNDBITE: Christina Bourmpou and Maria Kyridou, Junior Women’s Pair gold medalists (Greek Language)

"Είμαστε πάρα πάρα πολύ περήφανες που μπορούμε και εκπροσωπούμε τη χώρα μας σε μία τόσο μεγάλη διοργάνωση, είναι τιμή μας και είμαστε πάρα πολύ περήφανες γι’αυτό."

We are very proud to be able to represent our country in such a big event, it is our honour and we are very proud of it.

02:37 Close up of Christina Bourmpou and Maria Kyridou realising that they have won
02:50 Christina Bourmpou and Maria Kyridou on pontoon celebrating
03:00 Christina Bourmpou and Maria Kyridou being presented with gold medals

-- ENDS --

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