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STORY HEADLINE: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AT BUENOS AIRES 2018 HONOURING THE GREATS OF GYMNASTICS

DATE: 10 October, 2018
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
LANGUAGE: English, Italian

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Gymnastics’ Multi-discipline Team Event drew to a medal winning conclusion on Wednesday after four days of competition at Buenos Aires 2018.

It brought together the elite athletes from Gymnastics’ four main disciplines, Acrobatic, Artistic, rhythmic, and trampolining.

Gymnasts from all those disciplines were drawn into 12 teams of 13. The gymnasts competed as a multinational and multi-discipline team. Those teams were all named after an Olympic great of the sport of gymnastics.

The gold medal winners were Team Simone Biles, the US gymnast who set a record at Rio 2016 by winning four gymnastics golds in a single Games. As Biles was making history in Rio for Team USA, Max Whitlock was doing much the same for Team GB, winning five medals, including two golds. The team named in his honour won silver. Bronze went to Team Oksana Chusovitina. She made history at Rio 2016 by becoming the first gymnast to compete at seven successive Olympic Games.

For Team Simone Biles at Buenos Aires 2018 the gold medallists were:

From Acrobatic gymnastics, the Bulgarian pair of Mariela Kostadinova and Panayot Dimitrov.

From Artistic the male gymnasts were Ruan Lange of South Africa, Krisztian Balazs of Hungary, and Ukraine’s Nazar Chepurnyi. The female gymnasts were Tamara Ong from Singapore, Pham Nhu Phuong of Vietnam and Spain’s Alba Petisco.

The rhythmic gymnasts were Talisa Torretti of Italy, Daria Trubnikova from Russia and Azerbaijan’s Luzan Yelyazaveta.
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 Talisa Torretti, of Team Simone Biles, during her rhythmic gymnastics routine
00:21 Ruan Lange, of Team Simone Biles, finishing his high bar routine
00:32 Team Simone Biles taking to the podium

00:39 SOUNDbite: Christie Liam, Australian Men’s Trampoline Gymnastics Champion (English Language)
“It’s been a lot of training put in, we’ve been training like five or six days a week for the past five or six years, but it definitely has been worth it every single second of training coming down to this point. It’s all been worth it. Standing up on that podium with a gold medal, can’t ask anything more than that.”

00:56 Team Simone Biles being awarded their gold medals

01:00 SOUNDbite: Christie Liam, Australian Men’s Trampoline Gymnastics Champion (English Language)
“Every single athlete here is just absolutely magnificent, the competition was so tough. I want to congratulate all the athletes because because it has been a magnificent competition and every single athlete is just absolutely amazing.”

01:11 Ruan Lange being awarded his gold medal

01:16 SOUNDbite: Ruan Lange, South African Men’s Artistic Gymnastics Champion (English Language)
“It’s definitely been worth it, I’ve been training six days a week four and a half hours every single day leading up to this competition. So I’m really happy about that.”

01:26 Talisa Torretti during her routine
01:35 SOUNDBITE: Torretti Talisa, Italian Women's Rhythmic Gymnastics Champion (Italian Language)

“E allora intanto sono molto contenta di aver vinto questa medaglia anche perché non me la aspettavo; poi d'oro anche di più. E mi sono allenata tanto con un sacco di sacrifici, ma un sacco di passione ovviamente. Quindi sono molto contenta di aver vinto questa medaglia e ringrazio tutti.”

I'm very happy I won this medal, because I didn't expect it. It is fantastic to win the gold. I've trained a lot, I've made a lot of sacrifices, always with a lot of passion. So I'm very happy to have won this medal and I thank everyone.

01:51 Talisa Torretti during her routine

02:00 SOUNDBITE: Torretti Talisa, Italian Women’s Rhythmic Gymnastics Champion (Italian Language)

“When hanno fatto il sorteggio per questa, per questi team avevamo visto che era un team abbastanza forte, quindi anche noi della ritmica eravamo abbastanza forti. Quindi ci siamo dette se facciamo una gara al meglio possiamo almeno vincere una medaglia poi d'oro era così una sorpresa, però eravamo consapevoli che eravamo un team forte, quindi siamo contente.”

When they did the draw, we knew we were a strong team. We knew that in the rhythmic we were strong enough. We told each other: "Let's do our best and we can win a medal". The gold was a surprise, but we knew we were a strong team. We are really happy.

-- ENDS --

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