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STORY HEADLINE: GOLD MEDALS FOR MOROCCO AND IRAN ON FINAL NIGHT OF TAEKWONDO AT BUENOS AIRES 2018

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

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Iran won both gold medals on offer on Wednesday in the Taekwondo competition of the Youth Olympic Games at Buenos Aires 2018.

In the first final, 16-year-old Yalda Valinejad beat the reigning World Junior Champion, Serbia’s Nadica Bozanic in the women’s 63kg category. Valinejad won by a final score of 23 to 17.

Then Iran’s Ali Eshkevarian won gold in the men’s 73kg category. The 17-year-old overcame Belgium’s Badr Achab in a tight contest. He eventually won 17-16.

Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras of Morocco won the women’s +63kg gold medal.

In Taekwondo, each contest consists of three rounds of two minutes for both men and women, each with one minute intervals between rounds.

Competition method: The contestants, “Chung” (blue) and “Hong” (red) compete against each other using punching and kicking techniques performed on permitted parts of the body. Punches to the face and hits below the lower abdomen are forbidden. Permitted parts of the body are covered with protection.

Scoring method: One referee, three judges, a review jury, and a technical assistant manage the contest.

The trunk and head Protector Scoring System register the kicks automatically. The judges add the technical points (turning techniques).

For an effective attack to the trunk a competitor is awarded one, two or three points and for an effective attack to the head a competitor is awarded three or four points.
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:**

00:01 Mohammad Ali Khosravi in action for the final bout of the Men’s 73kg category gold medalist, (Iran)

00:21 **SOUNDBITE:** Mohammad Ali Khosravi, Men’s 73kg category Champion (Persian Language)

"واقعا احساس خلیخ خوبی دارم که توانستم در سومین دوره المپیک جوانان مقام اول را کسب کنم."

I really feel great that I was able to get the first place in the third Youth Olympic Games.

00:29 Mohammad Ali Khosravi winning fight action start of the final bout

00:44 **SOUNDBITE:** Mohammad Ali Khosravi, Men’s 73kg category Champion (Persian Language)

"بدون استرس و بدون اینکه جو مسابقات ما بگیرد توانستم که حریف خویش بود و دوم شده بود را تکست بدهم."

I was able to beat my opponent without stress and win against him who was such a good opponent and had won the second place.

00:53 Mohammad Ali Khosravi celebrating with the Iranian flag
01:03 Mohammad Ali Khosravi receiving his gold medal
01:13 Mohammad Ali Khosravi watching the Iranian flag raised
01:19 Mohammad Ali Khosravi holds his gold medal with other medalists

01:24 **SOUNDBITE:** Mohammad Ali Khosravi, Men’s 73kg category Champion (Persian Language)

"ما یک تیم خیلی خوب بودیم و توانستیم در مسابقات جهانی هم اول شویم، ما یک تیم دستی بودیم و توانستیم در این المپیک هم بهترین نتیجه را کسب کنیم."

We were a very good team, and we were able to win the first place in the World Championship. We were a unit and we were able to be the best in the Olympics.
01:36 Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, fighting for the women’s +63kg gold medal

01:54 SOUNDBYTE: Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, Women’s +63kg Champion
(Arabic Language)

"شكراً... يعني منذ مدة وأنا استعد حوالي ستين... لا يمكن أن تستعد شهر أو شهرين وتقو. الحمد لله لقد تدربنا في النادي كما تدربنا في مهد مالي رايه، وتدريبنا برفقة المدرب دافيد في فرنسا... الحمد لله لقد وفقنا." I spent a lot of time preparing for the competition, about two years. There is no chance to win if you only train for one or two months. Thank God! We trained at the club as well as at the Malay Rashid Institute and also trained with Mr. David in France. Thank God who helped us!

02:11 Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, winning the women’s +63kg gold medal for Morocco

02:22 SOUNDBYTE: Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, Women’s +63kg Champion
(Arabic Language)

What can I say! Thank God who was always by my side until I achieved victory.

02:27 Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, kissing the mat after winning gold

02:37 Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, celebrating with the Moroccan flag

02:42 SOUNDBYTE: Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, Women’s +63kg Champion
(Arabic Language)

"ماذا سأقول لك، كان الله معي ووقفت هذا كل شيء..." Quite frankly, the opponents were really strong. It was not easy to get the gold medal, especially since I had already played against the Chinese opponent, and I lost in the Olympic qualifiers in Tunisia and this was the first time I played against her in Tunisia. Today, I played against her and won. Thank God! I also played against the Iranian Teranit, and frankly she is a good player as I noticed, especially as we came out with a golden point. I mean the game was really tough!

03:07 Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, receiving her gold medal

03:19 Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras watching the Moroccan flag raised

03:23 SOUNDBYTE: Fatima-Ezzahra Aboufaras, Women’s +63kg Champion
(Arabic Language)

"لا يمكن أن يوجد فرد مثل ملك يكتبني قوله..." In fact, I can not describe my feelings. I am very happy.

-- ENDS --

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