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STORY HEADLINE: CHINA AND MALAYSIA WIN GOLDS IN BADMINTON SINGLES. GOLDS TOO FOR ITALY, CAMBODIA, BULGARIA, INDIA, SWEDEN, CANADA, USA, AND SRI LANKA IN MIXED INTERNATIONAL TEAM MEDLEY RELAY

DATE: 12 October, 2018
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
LANGUAGE: English, Chinese

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

STORY SCRIPT:

The final day of the Badminton tournament at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Buenos Aires 2018 began with Li Shifeng of China winning gold in the men’s Singles.

The 18-year-old was dominant in the early stages against India’s Lakshya Sen, easily winning the first game 21-15.

Sen fought to stay in the match, pegging back an early lead in the second game for Li. He saved four match points.

On the third of those match points Li thought he had won and was about to celebrate gold. But, the judges ruled the shuttlecock out.

On the fifth match point he was finally able to celebrate, falling on his back in triumph, his coaches running onto the court to congratulate him.

China’s Zhiyi Wang, who’s 18, and Malaysia’s Jin Wei Goh, also 18, contested the women’s singles final.

Wang, the second seed, comfortably won the opening game 21-16. But the third seed Goh fought back in the second, holding sway after an entertaining series of rallies to win 21-13 and take the match to a decider.

Their was little between the pair with Goh leading 11-10 when they took a water break. Goh thought she had won the match on 20-18 and began celebrating but the judge intervened ruling that Wang had won the point.

On the following point Goh was able to celebrate gold and congratulate her opponent after a memorable match.
The final match of the tournament was the final of the Relay team event, an exciting innovation for Badminton with eight teams of eight players of mixed nationality (four men and four women) playing ties of 10 matches where players accumulate points until they reach a winning total of 110 points.

The gold medal contest was between team’s labelled Alpha and Omega. Team Alpha won and the winning point sparked wild celebrations.

The team members dancing on the court on Friday night in the Argentine capital were Giovanni Toti (ITA), Vavv Vanthoun, Cambodia (CAM), Maria Delcheva, Bulgaria (BUL) Lakshya Sen, India (IND) Ashwathi Pillai, Sweden (SWE), Brian Yang, Canada (CAN), Jennie Gai (USA), and Hasini Nusaka Ambalangodage, Sri Lanka (SRI).

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 Shot of Li Shifeng’s winning shot  
00:09 Close up of Li Shifeng falling to the floor in celebration and hugging his coach  
00:18 Shot of Li Shifeng shaking hands with his opponent  

00:25 **SOUNDBITE: Li Shifeng, men’s Singles Champion (Chinese Language)**

“可以说是100分的表现吧。非常棒。”

I feel very good, I feel 10 out of 10.

00:30 Shot of Li Shifeng being awarded his gold medal

00:40 **SOUNDBITE: Li Shifeng, men’s Singles Champion (Chinese Language)**

“嗯，对手很强大吧。自己也非常感谢能跟我较量，能给我制造这样的困难。非常...我觉得，下次再来吧。”

I worked very hard because the opponent was very strong. I have to give my opponent a big round of applause.

00:58 Shot of the medalists on the podium

01:05 **SOUNDBITE: Li Shifeng, Men’s Singles Champion (Chinese Language)**
I'm very thankful. I would like to thank the People’s Republic of China for my training and education in sports. I would also like to thank my coach, my friends, my family and everyone who took care of me and made this medal possible.

01:32 Shot of Jin Wei Goh’s winning shot
01:40 Shot of Malaysian fans in the crowd celebrating
01:43 Close up shot of Jin Wei Goh on the floor celebrating
01:48 Shot of Jin Wei Goh shaking hands with her opponent
01:53 Shot of Malysian fans in the crowd with a flag

01:55 SOUNDBITE: Jin Wei Goh, Women’s Singles Champion (English Language)
“After I lost my first game I tried to calm myself down and I just played some long rallies. It’s incredible but I was a bit tense in the first game.”

02:09 Shot of Jin Wei Goh being awarded her gold medal
02:18 Shot of the medalists on the podium

02:26 SOUNDBITE: Jin Wei Goh, Women’s Singles Champion (English Language)
“It’s an incredible experience and I can’t believe it. There’s still a long journey ahead of me still so I have to train harder and harder because there are much stronger opponents waiting for me.”

02:41 Shot of the Relay Team in action
02:48 Shot of the action and celebrations from the Relay Team
03:00 Shot of the winning rally and celebrations from the Relay Team

03:17 SOUNDBITE: Ashwathi Pillai, Relay Team gold medalist (English Language)
“It feels crazy.”

03:20 SOUNDBITE: Brian Yang, Relay Team gold medalist (English Language)
“All of us are just in disbelief right now. We won and there’s no describing the emotion we feel, it’s just disbelief.”

03:22 Shot of the Relay Team being awarded their gold medals

03:47 SOUNDBITE: Maria Delcheva, Relay Team gold medalist (English Language)
“I was really nervous but really happy that I could take the last point and win the match.”

03:54 Shot of the Relay Team on the podium with their gold medals
03:58 Shot of Ashwanti Pillai being awarded her gold medal

04:00 SOUNDBITE: Brian Yang, Relay Team gold medalist (English Language)
“Most of my family are here and they watched me through the whole team tournament and I’m sure they’re really proud and I’m really proud of myself.”
04:12 SOUNDBITE: Maria Delcheva, Relay Team gold medalist (English Language)
“My parents and my brother will be really proud and I’m really happy that I can take the Olympic gold medal home.”

04:19 SOUNDBITE: Ashwathi Pillai, Relay Team gold medalist (English Language)
“My whole family will be really, really happy. They’re super excited.”

04:24 Shot of the Relay Team posing with their gold medals

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