The International Olympic Committee (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS AND ALL ONLINE PLATFORMS FREE OF CHARGE

STORY HEADLINE: GRACE STARK (USA), CONNOR BELL (NZL) AND KEELY SMITH (AUS) WERE THE EARLY GOLD MEDAL WINNERS AT THE ATHLETICS IN THE YOUTH OLYMPICS GAMES BUENOS AIRES 2018

DATE: 14 October, 2018
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

The first athletics medals of the Youth Olympics Games Buenos Aires were decided on Sunday (14th October).

The women’s 100 metres hurdles was the first track event to be contested. At YOG, the athletics medals are decided over the aggregate of two rounds of races, rather than heats, semi finals and final.

Grace Stark of the USA, the fastest athlete after stage one, was quickest in stage two. Her time of 12.83s to win the gold medal.

Speaking after the event, she admitted that she was relieved to have won both of her races.

The silver medal went to Ackera Nugent of Jamaica who posted a time of 12.96 while Sophie White of Australia took bronze with 13.01.

The men’s discus throw 1.5kg was won by New Zealander Connor Bell.

He had been the pre-tournament favourite, and New Zealand boasts a rich pedigree in throwing events, but he insisted that he hadn’t been complacent.

His best throw was 66.24 metres, ensuring that he took the gold medal with something to spare.

The silver went to Gracjan Kozac of Poland who produced a throw of 59.52 metres - a personal best - while Enrico Saccamono of Italy took the bronze with 59.49 metres.

The women’s 800 metres was raced over three stage two heats.
Keely Small of Australia had set the standard during the stage one heats, and did enough in stage two to ensure that she took the Gold with a time of 2:04.76.

Second place went to American Athing Mu with a time of 2:05.23 while the bronze medal was won by Hirut Meshesha of Ethiopia with her time of 2:06.25.

Small admitted to some extra pressure ahead of the race, having put herself in such a strong position on day one, and was thrilled to have delivered on that potential.

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:

00:02 Multiple shots of action of Women’s 100m Hurdles
00:21 Shot of Grace Stark, U.S. Gold medal winner women’s 100 metre hurdles celebrating
00:28 Shot of the winner being awarded his gold medal
00:35 Close up of Grace Stark

00:41 SOUNDbite: Grace Stark, USA, Women’s 100 metre hurdles Champion (English Language) [on winning the gold medal]
“I feel amazing. I was so excited to win and I had such a great competition and I’m really excited for that”

00:47 Slow motion of the women’s 100 metre hurdles champion during action

00:52 SOUNDbite: Grace Stark, USA, Women’s 100 metre hurdles Champion (English Language) [on her Buenos Aires experience]
“It’s been a great experience. I really like it here and I’m glad that I have a few more days to spend and look around. It’s going to be fun”

00:58 Multiple action shots of the Women’s 800 metres contest
01:09 Shot of Australian Gold medal winner, Keeley Smith, crossing the finish line
01:13 Shot of Smith after the contest
01:18 Shot of the winner being awarded his gold medal
01:23 Wide shot of the medalists posing for a photo
01:26 Close up of Keeley Smith holding the Gold medal
01:29 SOUNDbite: Keeley Smith, Australia, Women’s 800 metres Champion (English Language) [on winning the gold medal]
“I’m over the moon at the moment. I was a little bit nervous coming out here, coming into the second round being top ranked was a lot of pressure but I knew that I wanted it and I’m so pleased that I got the gold today”

01:39 Shot of the crowd

01:42 SOUNDbite: Keeley Smith, Australia, Women’s 800 metres Champion (English Language) [on her ambitions for Tokyo 2020]
“The goal, the big goal is Tokyo 2020. I really think that this is a great stepping stone to that and I’m just absolutely stoked that I got the gold today”

01:50 Multiple action shots of Connor Bell, Gold medal winner men’s shot put
02:02 Shot of the winner being awarded his gold medal
02:18 Close up of Bell
02:22 Shot of the medalists posing for a photo

02:25 SOUNDbite: Connor Bell, New Zealand, Men’s Shot Put Champion (English Language) [on his performance today]
“I’m feeling really happy. I was a bit worried coming into the competition, feeling a bit crook (ill) in the morning but I pulled it through and I threw really well”

02:35 Shot of Connor Bell wrapped on his national flag

02:38 SOUNDbite: Connor Bell, New Zealand, Men’s Shot Put Champion (English Language) [on how it feels to represent New Zealand on a global stage]
“I’m really proud. So unbelievably proud to come here against the world’s best and throw on the world stage, for my country. To pull on the fern (the New Zealand emblem) for me is a really really big deal and I put it on and I competed well.”

-- ENDS --

Copyrights:

© IOC-VNRs are for bona fide news reporting purposes only and all rights required for their production have been cleared. Terms and Conditions of the IOC Newsroom and Olympic.org apply. This IOC-VNR shall be used in accordance with the News Access Rules for Buenos Aires 2018 available here, in particular in respect to the Amount of YOG Content, Amount per News Programme, Airing after broadcast by RHBs only, Duration of Use, No use of Olympic Properties, No Commercial Association, On-screen Courtesy Credit (“Courtesy of The International Olympic Committee”), Infringements & Monitoring, etc.
Story script and Shot log

For more information, please contact the IOC Media Relations Team: Tel: +41 21 621 6000, email: pressoffice@olympic.org, or visit our web site at www.olympic.org.