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STORY HEADLINE: SLOVAKIA WINS GOLD IN WOMEN'S KAYAK OBSTACLE SLALOM, GOLD FOR MAURITIUS IN MEN'S CANOE OBSTACLE SLALOM AT BUENOS AIRES 2018

DATE: 15 October, 2018
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
LANGUAGE: English, French

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

STORY SCRIPT:

The Kayakers and canoeists were back on the water in Puerto Madero at Buenos Aires after a day’s break from competition with the Obstacle Slalom for men and women.

Emanuela Luknarova from Slovakia triumphed in the winners final, beating Doriane Delassus of France. The 16 year old went down the course to secure Gold in 1 minute 18.25 seconds with Delassus finishing in the silver medal position with a run of 1'20.00 seconds. Bronze went to Tzu-Hsuan Lai of Chinese Taipei.

Mauritius are able to celebrate a rare Olympic Gold thanks to victory in the Men's Canoe slalom to Benjamin Saramandif. The 16 year old completed the course some five seconds ahead of his New Zealand rival in their final. Bronze went to Spain’s Yoel Becerra Becerra-Bernandez.

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 Action of the men’s race.
00:25 Benjamin Saramandif celebrates his win.
00:37 Saramandif receives the gold medal

00:44 SOUNDbite: Benjamin Saramandif, Men’s Canoe Obstacle Slalom Youth Olympic Champion (French Language)
"Je suis vraiment, vraiment content d’avoir la médaille, parce que c’est l’accomplissement du travail que j’ai fait cet été, et, non, les performances, c’était vraiment bien et joli, joly fight avec le New-Zélandais qui était juste à coté."
I'm really happy to have won the medal because it's the achievement of the work I did last summer, and no, the performances, they were really good and a nice, nice fight with the New-Zealander who was right next to me.

00:57 Action of the race.

01:05 SOUNDbite: Benjamin Saramandif, Men’s Canoe Obstacle Slalom Youth Olympic Champion (French Language).
"C’est vraiment un plaisir pour moi d’être ici, parce que Buenos Aires, j’ai passé de vraiment bon moments. C’était vraiment un événement à ne pas louper, c’est un lancement de carrière, je pense, aussi un tremplin. Et la médaille, bon, bien, mon pays, je pense que ça va d’abord être une médaille pour le canoé-kayak à l’île Maurice. Ça va permettre de développer, c’est le début du canoé-kayak à l’île Maurice, quoi."
It's a true pleasure for me to be here, because I spent a real good time here in Buenos Aires. It was an event not to be missed, I believe it's the launching of my career as well as a springboard. And the medal, well, my country, I believe it's mainly going to be a medal for canoe-kayak in Mauritius. It will help enable developing, it's the beginning of canoe-kayak in Mauritius.

01:28 Action of the women’s race.
01:43 Emanuela Luknarova celebrates her win.

01:46 SOUNDbite: Emanuela Luknarova, Women’s Kayak Obstacle Slalom Youth Olympic Champion (English Language)
“In the semi-final I felt really good and I felt strong and then in the final I felt a bit nervous but I think it was great when I came to the finish line and I was first and then I understood I won.”

02:06 Emanuela receives the gold medal.

02:12 SOUNDbite: Emanuela Luknarova, Women’s Kayak Obstacle Slalom Youth Olympic Champion (English Language)
“I think that it is very important to introduce your country to the world and I am happy I can do it with this medal and I’d like to tell everybody to enjoy canoe slalom, never give up and you can also win a medal!”

-- ENDS --
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