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STORY HEADLINE: HISTORIC DAY IN YOUTH OLYMPIC PARK AS CROSS COUNTRY RETURNS WITH GOLDS FOR KENYA, ETHIOPIA, BURUNDI, AND UGANDA AT YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES BUENOS AIRES 2018

DATE: 15 October, 2018
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
LANGUAGE: English, Amharic, Swahili, Kirundi

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

STORY SCRIPT:

History was made at Buenos Aires 2018 as Cross Country returned to the programme of an Olympic event for the first time since Paris 1924.

Back then the legendary Paavo Nurmi won five gold medals, including Cross Country, both in the individual and team events. The format for the Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires 2018 was quite a bit different. The placings of athletes in each individual event and in the cross-country race will be added to determine the overall final placings with the athlete having the lowest total score being the overall winner. The results of the cross-country race will be adjusted to reflect separate rankings for the 1500m, 3000m and 2000m steeplechase respectively with medals being allocated accordingly in the three individual track disciplines.

In the Men’s Cross Country Jackson Muema of Kenya and Berihu Aregawi broke away from the rest of the field. Muema finished third in the 3,000m track event, Aregawi second. Uganda’s Oscar Chelimo had won that race but struggled to live with his rivals on a flat cross country with the baking hot sun the only real challenge. Muemo and Aregawi played cat and mouse with each other until the 17-year-old Kenyan broke clear to claim gold. Aregawi won silver. Chelimo took bronze despite beating the pair in the track event, though did appear last Thursday that his rivals were holding back for the Cross Country stage and this proved to be the case.

Trailing in behind them in the men’s cross country in fourth was Burundi’s Jean de Dieu Butoyi but that guaranteed the 16-year-old gold in the 1500m/Cross Country, despite being only the third fastest on the track in the metric mile last week. Anass Essayi won silver in the same event, finishing sixth in the cross country. Seventh place meant the fastest over 1500m, Melese Nberet, had to settle for bronze, despite being quickest in the 1500m heats last Friday.
Abraham Sime was the only male middle distance athlete to win on the track and be presented with a gold medal. The 16-year-old won the 2,000m Steeplechase with an impressive run 10 seconds clear of his nearest rivals. His ninth place finish in the cross country was enough to secure gold. Baptiste Guyon of France won silver, Abel Yamane of Eritrea, bronze. Neither of them were top three finishers over the hurdles on Friday.

The women went off after the men and this time it was a less complicated affair to see who won the gold medals. The first three home in the women’s cross country all won gold.

Sarah Chelangat was first home in the Women’s Cross Country after a powerful run, stringing out the field and guaranteeing the seventeen year old a gold medal in her specific event, 3000m/Cross Country. The medal placings in that event did not change from the track stage, Mercy Kerarei of Kenya silver, Ethiopia’s Aberash Minsewo bronze.

Sixteen years old Edinah Jebitok won gold in the women’s 1500m/Cross Country, finishing runner up to Chelilingat in the cross country. Jaylah Hancock-Cameron of Australia won silver, Ethiopia’s Lemlem Hailu bronze.

Fancy Cherono’s third place winning in the cross country behind the 3000m and the 1500m meant the 17-year-old was able to celebrate gold in the Women’s 2000mSC/Cross Country. Mekides Abebe of Ethiopia won silver, Sri Lanka’s Parami Maristela, bronze.

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 men’s cross-country race starting
00:13 Jackson Muema amongst the pack during the race
00:25 Shot of Jackson Muema crossing the finish line and celebrating
00:33 Shot of Jackson Muema being awarded the gold medal
00:40 Close shot of Jackson Muema during the national anthem
00:45 Shot of the medallists stood on the podium with their medals
00:50 SOUNDBITE: Jackson Muema, Men’s 3000 metres Champion (English Language) [on how he feels about becoming Olympic Champion]

“First of all, I thank God for this, for taking me out to Argentina and so my name is Jackson Muema and I am happy to be at the Olympics in Argentina. So therefore, I am happy to come from number three (ranking) and I couldn’t imagine myself moving from number three to number one in the finals. Therefore I was scared of the Ugandan’s and Ethiopians (his competitors) but I am happy that I have beaten them today. It is a day to remember of course.”

01:23 Shot of the women’s cross-country race starting
01:30 Shot of Sarah Chelangat crossing the finish line
01:36 Shot of Sarah Chelangat being awarded the gold medal
01:41 Close shot of Sarah Chelangat during the national anthem

01:46 SOUNDBITE: Sarah Chelangat, Women’s 3000 metres/Cross-Country Champion (English Language) [on how she feels about being Olympic Champion]

“I feel nice being a champion.”

01:51 Close shot of Sarah Chelangat holding up her gold medal

01:56 SOUNDBITE: Sarah Chelangat, Women’s 3000 metres/Cross-Country Champion (English Language) [on how she feels about being Olympic Champion]

“My future is to help my parents and my family for tomorrow.”

02:07 Shot of women’s steeplechase race starting (on Friday)
02:09 Shot of the competitors jumping over the steeplechase
02:11 Shot of Fancy Cherono crossing the finish line
02:17 Fancy Cherono being awarded her gold medal (on Monday)
02:24 Shot of the medallists on the podium

02:31 SOUNDBITE: Fancy Cherono, Women’s 2000 metre Steeplechase/Cross-Country Champion (English Language) [and how much training did you do to get here]

“I have trained very hard. To be an athlete is not very easy. We have to face many challenges. And you have to focus.”

02:47 Shot of men’s steeplechase race starting (on Friday)
02:49 Shot of the competitors jumping over the steeplechase
02:53 Shot of Abrham Sime crossing the finish line
02:58 Shot of Abrham Sime being awarded the gold medal
03:04 Close shot of Abrham Sime during the national anthem

03:07 SOUNDBITE: Abrham Sime, Men’s 2000 metre Steeplechase/Cross-Country Champion (Amharic Language) [on how he feels about being Olympic Champion]

“እ ጅ ግ በ ጣ ም ደ ስ ተ ኛ ኝ የ ኝ ዋ ሰ ገ ሬ ር ቅ ጗ ዳ ሊ ያ ማ ስ ገ ኘ ቴ ደ ስ ዖ ሎ ኛ ል ጗ የ ጅ ግ ባ ጣ ም ደ ስ ተ ኛ ኝ የ ኝ ዋ ጗ ዳ ሊ ያ ማ ስ ገ ኘ ቴ ደ ስ ዖ ሎ ኛ ል”
I am very happy, I am happy to get a gold medal for my country and very happy to win this Olympic race.

03:18 Shot of Edinah Jebitok after crossing the finish line in the cross-country (on Monday)
02:25 Shot of Edinah Jebitok being awarded the gold medal
03:30 Close shot of Edinah Jebitok during the national anthem
03:34 Shot of the medallists on the podium

03:38 SOUNDbite: Edinah Jebitok, Women’s 1500 metres/Cross-country Champion (Swahili Language) [on how she feels about being Olympic Champion]
First of all I would like to thank God. The Lord guarded me throughout my journey from Kenya to Argentina; we are safe. I am thanking God because he has been with me. I was not expecting to obtain gold, but the Lord has done me good. Now, I am thankful to God in entirety. First and foremost he has been my all in all during my training period. I thank God because we have partaken in our trainings. I am saying, “thank you God”.

04:15 Shot of Oscar Chelimo after crossing the finish line in the cross-country (on Monday)
04:21 Shot of the start of the men’s steeplechase (on Friday)
04:24 Shot of Jean de Dieu Buyoyi being awarded the gold medal
04:29 Close shot of Jean de Dieu Buyoyi during the national anthem

04:33 SOUNDbite: Jean de Dieu Buyoyi, Men’s 1500 metres/Cross-country Champion (Kirundi Language) [on how he feels about being Olympic Champion]
“Ndaryohew cane kuba ndonse uyu mudari...ntivyari vyoroshe muga ndashimira Imana.”
I am very happy to win this competition. It was not easy but I want to thank God because he helped me to win this competition.

04:41 Shot of the medallists on the podium

04:43 SOUNDbite: Jean de Dieu Buyoyi, Men’s 1500 metres/Cross-country Champion (Kirundi Language) [on being confident ahead of his event]
“Yamfashij kubishikako. Ubu ngiy kwongereza inguvu kugira ngo nzoshobor kuronka iyindi midari.”
So I am going to make some effort in order to be better than today and to win more other competitions.

04:54 Close Shot of Jean de Dieu Buyoyi holding his gold medal

-- ENDS --

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