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STORY HEADLINE: Swiss superstar singer Bastian Baker ready to close Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 and fulfill Olympic ambition

LOCATION: Lausanne, Switzerland
DATE: January 21, 2020
LANGUAGE: French, English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

As a young man growing up in Lausanne, Bastian Baker thought he would play at the Olympic Games. As a top division ice hockey player in Switzerland, he expected it would be on the ice, but now as one of his nation’s biggest music stars, Baker’s Olympic debut will come as the headline act in the closing ceremony of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020.

The 28-year-old spent most of last year on the road, playing alongside Canadian superstar Shania Twain on an 80-date world tour, has played at huge festivals around the world, appeared on the French version of Dancing With The Stars and been a coach on the Belgium version of The Voice, but he can’t wait to perform in front of his hometown fans at the closing ceremony at the medals plaza in Lausanne.

Baker spends as much time as possible in Lausanne. He is regularly seen in the bar his father Bruno Kaltenbacher, a former Swiss international ice hockey player, owns in the city.

Lausanne 2020 is the third edition of the Winter YOG, bringing together the world’s best young athletes between the ages of 15 and 18. For the first time in Winter Olympic history the Games will have gender equality, with equal numbers of male and female competitors in the 81 medal events.

1,872 athletes from 79 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) will be in action in Lausanne, 12 of those NOCs for the first time at a Youth Olympic Games - Albania, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Haiti, Hong Kong, Kosovo, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Trinidad & Tobago.

As well as the brand new sport of Ski Mountaineering, Lausanne 2020 features five new events, Women’s Nordic Combined, Individual Normal Hill/4km, Women’s Doubles Luge, Mixed NOC 3x3 Ice Hockey, Freeski Big Air, Snowboard Big Air.

The first Winter Youth Olympic Games took place in Innsbruck, Austria, in 2012. The second edition was held in the Norwegian city of Lillehammer in 2016.
SHOTLIST:
MANDATORY CREDIT: Pictures Courtesy, BastianBaker.Com

00:05 Shots of Bastian Baker performing at Argovia Fäscht in Birrfeld.
00:31 Bastian Baker playing with a hockey stick on stage.

01:01 SOUNDBYTE: Bastian Baker, Singer (French Language).
“It is a great honour to be closing the Youth Olympic Games in my home city in Lausanne here, where I was born. I grew up playing ice hockey, I played for quite a long time and I’m still very connected to the sports world. I love any kind of sports, I was here during the whole of the Olympics and I got to see a lot of performances and I have to say I was thinking about the other day, and I was like: ‘Man, I’m closing this’. It’s awesome, so I’m very happy.”

01:34 Shots of the stage preparations for the Lausanne 2020 closing ceremony.

01:38 SOUNDBYTE: Bastian Baker, Singer (French Language).
“So I played hockey for 13 years, so 13 full seasons, and I have had a lot of great experiences thanks to hockey. My first travels without my parents, we played the hockey World Championship when I was 14 in Quebec, Canada, so that was probably one of the highlights. I played until I was 19 and then I quit because there was this music thing going on. It’s kind of funny how it happened because I was still playing hockey while working on my music career, so I would be driving to go to practice and while driving I would hear my song on the radio and that’s when I thought I might have to make a choice here.”

02:09 Various shots from the stage preparations for the Lausanne 2020 closing ceremony.

02:23 SOUNDBYTE: Bastian Baker, Singer (French Language).
“I think at this point, if you have played the Youth Olympic Games, if you have seen what sports can add and bring to your life, I have no advice here, the whole event and the whole spirit speaks for itself. It’s going to be a memory that lasts forever for these kids from all over the world. Just keep having fun and if it was what you feel you were born to do, just do it and don’t let anyone tell you anything else.”

03:00 Shots of Bastian Baker and agent watching previous performances.
03:07 Close up of Bastian Baker.
03:09 Bastian Baker meets a fan.

03:15 SOUNDBYTE: Bastian Baker, Singer (French Language).
“Well there’s definitely been a few events where I have thought, OK I’m playing music here, while I could definitely have been playing hockey, and I love it. I have never regretted my choice, it’s brought so many great things in my life and actually there wasn’t a Youth Olympic Games when I was playing hockey. I wish there was because I would have worked so hard to be part of it because it’s such a great event. But here I am, a couple of years later and playing music for all these athletes playing at the closing ceremony - I think there is no better set up for me. I get to get the best of both worlds.”

03:50 Shots of Bastian Baker on stage at Summerdays Festival in Arbon.