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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Mackenson Florindo and Haiti's tale of alpine skiing hope a decade on from the nation's horrific earthquake.

LOCATION: Les Diablerets, Switzerland

DATE: January 20, 2020

LANGUAGE: French

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

STORY SCRIPT:

When unlikely alpine skier Mackenson Florindo shot down the slopes of Les Diablerets at Lausanne 2020, a sporting first for Haiti coincided with a poignant anniversary in the Caribbean island nation's history.

Florindo, Haiti's first and only Winter Youth Olympian at Lausanne 2020, finished a respectable 51st in a field of 77 athletes in Men's Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom on Monday, January 13.

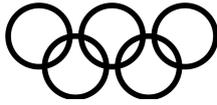
It marked exactly a decade and a day on from the devastating earthquake that affected an estimated one-third of Haiti's population.

The 17-year old also competed in the Men's Alpine Skiing Slalom event the following day (January 14) but did not finish his opening run so was ruled out of the competition.

Competing at the Winter Youth Olympic Games was Florindo's target rather than winning gold and it marked the end of a remarkable personal journey.

Born in Verrettes, a village about 60km north of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, the youngster was dropped off at an orphanage at the age of three as his biological mother couldn't afford to look after him properly. Six months later Florindo was taken to France, adopted by a family from the city of Grenoble in the French Alps. It was there that the seed of an Olympic dream was planted.

After securing dual citizenship, Haitian and French, in June 2019, Florindo decided to represent his country of birth. Under the tutelage of his elder brother and coach, Gregory Glasson, also adopted by Florindo's Grenoble parents, the ambitious Florindo began to shape his dream of representing a nation he had not returned since leaving as an orphan.



Today Florindo divides his time between going to school, working as a mechanic and ski training that allowed him to proudly wear the Haitian colours at this year's YOG.

Florindo and the Haitian delegation at Lausanne 2020 participated in a poignant ceremony at Les Diablerets to mark the 10th anniversary of the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12th, 2010.

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:

00:05 Action of alpine skier Mackenson Florindo during run one of the men's giant slalom
00:32 Shot of Haitian chef de mission and other members of the delegation celebrating the Florindo's run.
00:35 Shots of Mackenson Florindo after the race

00:39 SOUNDBITE: Mackenson Florindo, Haitian Alpine Skier (French Language).

"I am proud to be the first Haitian to represent my country at the Winter YOG."

00:48 Shot of Mackenson Florindo as the flagbearer of Haiti at the Lausanne 2020 Opening Ceremony

00:59 SOUNDBITE: Mackenson Florindo, Haitian alpine skier (French Language).

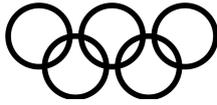
"I was born in Haiti. I was adopted at age three, and I was raised in the region of Grenoble, in France. My parents put me on skis very early. I loved it straightaway and since then I have continued skiing and got here."

01:18 Mackenson Florindo signing autographs after the completion of his giant slalom

01:23 SOUNDBITE: Mackenson Florindo, Haitian alpine skier (French Language).

"I do not consider myself as an outsider. I don't have enough training; I should do more to be better at this level. While the others are training during the week, I am at school or at the garage [where I work as a mechanic]."

01:50 Mackenson Florindo at the start of Run 1 of men's giant slalom.



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01:55 Mackenson Florindo crashing into a pole during Run 1 of men's giant slalom.

02:01 SOUNDBITE: Mackenson Florindo, Haitian alpine skier (French Language).

"It was a great experience. I did not perform at a satisfactory level, but it taught me a lot. I can use this experience in the future."

02:18 Shots of President of Ski Federation of Haiti dancing with another member of the Haitian delegation

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