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STORY HEADLINE: Malcolm Arnold from Team GB and Ulla Koch from Team Germany win International Olympic Committee Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards

LOCATION: Club Coubertin, Olympic Museum, Lausanne, Switzerland
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STORY SCRIPT:

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has awarded British athletics coach Malcolm Arnold and Germany’s Ulla Koch with IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards in recognition of their exceptional work carried out with athletes throughout their careers.

The 2019 winners are athletics coach Malcolm Arnold from Great Britain and artistic gymnastic coach Ulla Koch from Germany. They received the award this evening (Friday, 17 January 2020), during a ceremony held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, in the presence of IOC President Thomas Bach and members of the IOC Athletes’ and Athletes’ Entourage Commissions.

The IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards is an annual event honouring and recognising the work of coaches who have gone above and beyond to develop and nurture athletes in the spirit of Olympism.

The award is being delivered by the IOC Athletes’ Entourage Commission to celebrate one male and one female coach, active or retired, who harbour the qualities of a great coach, have participated in at least one edition of the Olympic Games and supported athletes on the road to their sporting dreams.

“Congratulations to the two winners on this prestigious award,” said IOC President Thomas Bach, Olympic champion in fencing, 1976, commenting on the announcement. “This is a recognition of the fundamental role that these coaches had on generations of athletes, inspiring them with the Olympic values and helping them realise their dreams. I know from my own experience the fundamental role coaches play in a career of an athlete.”

Malcolm Arnold trained athletes from all around the world over a career that spanned almost 60 years, until he retired in 2016. He trained three Olympic champions, from
Uganda, Canada and Great Britain, and his athletes held world records in the 60m hurdles, the 110m hurdles, the 200m hurdles and the 400m hurdles.

Malcolm began his career as a physical education teacher, before heading to Uganda to become the Head Coach of the Athletics Federation. He led John Akii-Bua to African history when John became Africa’s first Olympic champion at Munich 1972. Malcolm then headed Welsh Athletics and British Athletics, and was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by the Queen of the United Kingdom in 2012 for services to athletics.

Ulla Koch started her artistic gymnastics coaching career in 1975, and has been the national Head Coach of the German team since 2005, leading athletes to 34 international medals.

Ulla has coached athletes at two Youth Olympic Games, 10 World Championships, 14 European Championships and 3 Olympic Games, and she is currently preparing for Tokyo 2020.

Along with coaching, Ulla has also held other roles including having been the Chair of the National Technical Committee of the German Gymnastics Federation. She is also on the Coaches Commission of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) and was presented with the Equal Opportunities Award by the DOSB in 2016 for her achievements in fostering women as coaches.

The IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards aim to raise awareness of the importance of the athletes’ entourage and recognise the key role coaches play in supporting athletes beyond their sporting careers

“"The quality of the relationship athletes have with their coaches is crucial for them," commented Sergey Bubka, Chair of the IOC Athletes’ Entourage Commission, and Olympic champion in pole vaulting, 1988. “When we launched this award three years ago, we wanted to put a spotlight on the coaches’ role, on and off the field of play. I warmly congratulate Malcolm and Ulla as I think they perfectly embody the values that our Commission is promoting, and I am sure their work will inspire many other coaches,” Bubka stressed.

The winners were selected from a pool of coaches nominated by Olympians, International Federations, National Olympic Committees, members of the IOC Athletes’ and Athletes’ Entourage Commissions and IOC Members.

A panel composed of the Chair of the IOC Athletes’ Entourage Commission, two IOC Members of this Commission and two members of the IOC Athletes’ Commission, all appointed by the IOC President, took the final decision on the two coaches to receive this award.

The awards ceremony took place midway through the Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020, which runs until January 22.

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 Exterior of Olympic Museum
00:11 Guests entering IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards
00:16 Malcolm Arnold shaking hands with dignitaries, including Sergei Bubka
00:30 Ulla Koch talking with Sergei Bubka
00:40 Various close ups of awards
01:02 Wide shot of awards hall (MUTE)

01:13 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“We all as athletes we know that we would be nothing without a good coach and we all know that a good coach is much more than a trainer. A good coach is an inspiration, a good coach is somebody who is teaching us values. A good coach is somebody who is pushing us to our boundaries and sometimes even beyond.”

01:53 Wide shot of awards hall (MUTE)

01:59 SOUNDBITE: Mikaela Jaworski, IOC Member (English Language)
“Please join me once again in congratulating the winner of the 2019 Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award, male, Mr Malcolm Arnold, to be awarded by Mr Sergei Bubka.”

02:12 Malcolm Arnold collects award from Sergei Bubka

02:21 SOUNDBITE: Malcolm Arnold, Team GB, IOC Male Coach Of The Year, (English Language).
“It’s important that athletes have leaders. First and foremost coaches are leaders, and when they lead they must have very good technical knowledge, so it’s a combination of many things really.”

02:37 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President, (English Language).
“Malcolm Arnold is a legend as a coach, having trained athletes in 13 Olympic Games. I think it’s a unique record, and at the same time, and despite all these huge successes, he’s a very humble man and a very human man who is always caring about the well-being of his athletes on the field of play and off the field of play. So he really deserves this Lifetime Achievement Award in a very special way.”

03:16 SOUNDBITE: Mikaela Jaworski, IOC Member (English Language)
“Please now join me in congratulating her on this great achievement and please welcome Miss Ulla Koch, who will now be presented by Thomas Bach.”
03:25 Ulla Koch collects award from Thomas Bach

03:32 SOUNDBITE: Ulla Koch, Team Germany, IOC Female Coach Of The Year (English Language).
“I like to encourage young people to become a coach because I think it’s a great job, also for a woman and we can be very big leaders for young people because we have a lot of empathy, we understand what young people will do and what they want to do and if we can inspire them it doesn’t matter if we are a woman or a man. We have to have the personality to lead a team and you have to laugh to lead a team.”

04:07 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President, (German Language).
“I cannot imagine who deserved this award more than Ulla Koch, who has achieved so many successes with her athletes in this technically very demanding sport. While I was President of the DOSB (German NOC) I had the privilege to see her work with the athletes, I saw this positive feedback, and furthermore she engages herself in the training of future coaches, that makes her really unique and I congratulate her with all my heart.”

04:40 IOC President Thomas Bach on stage with both award winners

04:57 SOUNDBITE: Sergei Bubka, IOC Member and Chair of IOC Entourage Commission (English Language)
“I think this a very unique evening to have an awards ceremony for outstanding coaches who contribute to the success of the athletes. And of course for me as Chairman of Entourage, it is important to bring attention and promote the role of Entourage, as we know that the key person in the Entourage is the coach. I can rely on the coach to achieve success, and the influence of the coach to build their future successful life. They are more than a coach, this is mental, this is in many cases like in my case he became my second father, who gave me guidance and helped me to understand life, achieve my goals and to never give up. For me this is a very important day of recognition, to pay tribute to our coaches who build our champions and build our heroes.”

05:58 Wide shot of Awards Hall

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