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STORY HEADLINE: Gold medals won by athletes from Estonia, Russia, Japan and Georgia in Figure Skating Mixed National Olympic Committee Team event at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Malley Ice Rink, Lausanne, Switzerland
DATE: January 15, 2020
LANGUAGE: Russian, English, Japanese

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Combining in a mixed team from different National Olympic Committees (NOCs) calling itself ‘Team Courage‘ athletes from Estonia, Russia, Japan and Georgia were bold enough to win gold medals at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020.

Eight teams with competitors of mixed nationality participated in the Figure Skating Mixed NOC Team Event; each team composed of one man, one woman, one pair and one Ice Dance couple from different NOCs.

Each skater or couple earned the points for the team competing in Free Skating or Free Dance. Within each event, points were awarded based on the ranking.

The teams were ranked based on the sum of points earned in all four categories. Team Courage had the highest number of points and was placed first.

For gold medal winning ‘Team Courage‘ 14-year old Arlet Levandi from Estonia competed in Men’s Single Skating. The silver medallist from the Women’s Single Skating, Russia’s Ksenina Sinitsyna, who is 15, competed in the same discipline for this team event.

The Pair’s Skaters were 14-year old Alina Butaeva and 17-year old Luka Berulava, of Georgia. The Ice Dancing couple were Japanese athletes 16-year old Utana Yoshida from Okayama and 17-year old Shingo Nishiyama from Tokyo.

Because the event was classified as a Mixed NOC event, the Olympic flag was raised in all three positions at the medal ceremony.

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 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 from the Figure Skating mixed NOC team competition

01:22 SOUNDBITE: Ksenina Sinitsyna, Gold medallist, Figure Skating Mixed team (Russian Language).
“I liked everything a lot. It was absolutely great, cool! Well done.

01:30 SOUNDBITE: Alina Butaeva, Gold medallist, Figure Skating Mixed team (Russian Language).
“There was huge support from our team, and it was easier for me to skate.”

01:38 SOUNDBITE: Luka Berulava, Gold medallist, Figure Skating Mixed team (Russian Language).
“Thank you to our team. We are the best.”

01:43 SOUNDBITE: Arlet Levandi, Gold medallist, Figure Skating Mixed team (English Language).
“Big thanks for the team. Everyone made great performance today. Thank you.”

01:51 SOUNDBITE: Utana Yoshida, Gold medallist, Figure Skating Mixed team (Japanese Language).
“I want to thank my teammates who brought great results.”

02:01 SOUNDBITE: Shingo Nishiyama, Gold medallist, Figure Skating Mixed team (Japanese Language).
“Our performance was great, and each of the team members also did their best, so thank you very much for that.”

02:11 shots of ‘Team Courage’ at the victory ceremony
02:28 Shots from the medal ceremony of the Figure Skating Mixed team event

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INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
Château de Vidy, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland | Tel +41 21 621 6111 | Fax +41 21 621 6356 | www.olympic.org
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