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STORY HEADLINE: Gold for China's Binyu Yang in Women's Speed Skating Mass Start at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: St Moritz, Switzerland

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LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

China's Binyu Yang skated a superb tactical race to win gold in the Speed Skating Women's Mass Start at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020

Yang, who is 17, tracked the leader Zuzana Kursova from the Czech Republic over the final stages, patiently waiting to make her break for the finish line in the final sprint. She managed to overhaul Kursova despite giving her more than a six second advantage at the final split with 400m to go.

Kursova was left settling for silver. Italy's Katia Filippi took bronze.

In the Speed Skating mass start at the Winter YOG, skaters start together and only one competition lane (extending the ordinary inner & outer lane with the warm-up lane) is used. Both women and men will skate over a distance of 4000 meters, 10 laps each.

During the race, there's one intermediate sprint, which will be concluded at the finishing line after five laps, and a final sprint at finish. Race points are awarded for the sprints as follows: Intermediate sprint: first three skaters gain: 5 - 3 - 1 points. Final sprint: first three skaters will gain: 30 - 20 - 10 points. The winners of the final sprint (places 1 to 3) will be ranked 1 - 2 - 3 in the race.

The Women's Mass Start race brought to an end the Speed Skating programme being held in the Swiss Alpine resort of St Moritz for Lausanne 2020.

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 from final of the Women's Speed Skating Mass Start as Binyu Yang wins Gold medal

00:31 SOUNDBITE: Binyu Yang, Gold medallist, Women's Speed Skating Mass Start (Chinese Language).

"At first, my coach gave us several technical and tactical plans, and then I cooperated with my team-mate. Then she picked up the pace a little with five laps left, so we all rushed forward together from behind. And then at the last lap, I rushed forward and caught up with the Kazakhstani athlete, right? The skater who was ranked 2nd? And I came in first."

00:59 Athletes on podium for Mascot Ceremony

01:05 SOUNDBITE: Binyu Yang, Gold medallist, Women's Speed Skating Mass Start (Chinese Language).

"No, I didn't think about it. I didn't think of anything in my head at that time, I just wanted to sprint with all my strength, and I had no other ideas."

01:15 Athletes on podium with toy mascots

01:20 SOUNDBITE: Binyu Yang, Gold medallist, Women's Speed Skating Mass Start (Chinese Language).

"My coaches have helped me a lot. They've helped me a lot during my regular training, both foreign and Chinese coaches."

01:29 Yang with toy mascot

01:34 SOUNDBITE: Binyu Yang, Gold medallist, Women's Speed Skating Mass Start (Chinese Language).

"It was OK. When I woke up in the morning, I didn't think too much. When I woke up in the morning, I felt a little tired, and then I took a bath and relaxed, I don't feel particularly nervous. I just wanted to finish the competition well."

00:00 Various shots medal ceremony at St Moritz Medal Plaza

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For more information, please contact the IOC Media Relations Team: Tel: +41 21 621 6000, email: pressoffice@olympic.org, or visit our web site at www.olympic.org.