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STORY HEADLINE: Charlotte Longden looks to follow Team GB's women sliding sports tradition when bobsleigh gets underway at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Olympia Bobrun, St Moritz

DATE: January 17, 2020

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Team GB women have a sliding sports tradition of sorts, with Shelley Rudman, Amy Williams and two-time Olympic gold medal winner Lizzy Yarnold all having won rare Winter Olympic medals in the skeleton.

And the Winter Youth Olympics Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020 - and more specifically St Moritz - have a new British slider looking to make headlines in 17-year-old Charlotte Longden.

While she might be relatively new to the sport, having been poached from her athletics club in Bath, Longden's sporting pedigree is in little doubt.

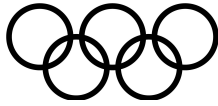
A former national level swimmer, county level netballer and a member of Reading hockey club, Longden has plenty of talent that she can channel into this latest sporting endeavour.

Indeed, it is worth remembering that both Yarnold and Williams started out in athletics before switching to sliding sports.

While not among the medal favourites in St Moritz, Longden has shown steady improvement over the course of her eight practice runs, and is clearly relishing the opportunity to become an Olympian. She is enjoying the Olympic experience and doesn't want to go back to school at Marlborough College just yet.

The Women's Monobob takes place on Sunday, January 19, with times over the two runs being added together to determine the winner.

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: Olympia Bobrun, St Moritz, Switzerland.

00:05 Various scenic shots of St Moritz

00:14 Charlotte Longden, Team GB Bobsleigh, warming up for practice run

00:26 SOUNDBITE: Charlotte Longden, Team GB Bobsleigh (English Language) (on how she got into the sport)

"I got into the sport through athletics. My athletics coach was contacted looking for female sprinters and then referred me to do the trials and ever since then, it's just been go."

00:38 Longden with fellow competitor Emma Johnsen of Canada

00:45 SOUNDBITE: Charlotte Longden, Team GB Bobsleigh (English Language) (on how other sports help with her bobsleigh)

"I think that they all help because doing a lot of sport is obviously beneficial because you're constantly training and constantly getting better and I also love running around so it's really helpful."

00:56 Longden setting up at the start of her practice run

01:05 Longden simulating the turns she is likely to make on the run

01:10 SOUNDBITE: Charlotte Longden, Team GB Bobsleigh (English Language) (on the world famous Olympia Bobrun track)

"I love this track. It's so nice to be competing here. It's different from every other track, especially because it's completely naturally made. It's so much quieter, it's so much smoother, and when you get it right it just feels amazing."

01:21 Longden ahead of her run

01:27 Longden preparing for the start



01:34 SOUNDBITE: Charlotte Longden, Team GB Bobsleigh (English Language) (on her training runs here)

"We have a break in between the days which is quite difficult as you've got to get back into it once you've had a break, which can sometimes be quite hard. The training has been up and down, but over the last couple of days it has been up, so hopefully it's the last training day and I just need to get the little things right ready for my race on Sunday."

01:52 Start of the practice run

02:04 Longden on the track

02:08 SOUNDBITE: Charlotte Longden, Team GB Bobsleigh (English Language) (on how the track changes with each run)

"As you're going down you've got to take into account what's changed, because obviously people have gone down before you, they may have hit the walls, they may have taken bits out of the ice so you've just got to be really responsive and really aware of what is happening to the track as you are going on."

02:23 Aerial of Longden on the track

02:27 Various shots of Longden talking with her coaching team and GB officials

02:42 SOUNDBITE: Charlotte Longden, Team GB Bobsleigh (English Language) (on her experiences in St Moritz)

"It's amazing. I've been absolutely loving it. I don't want to go home, I don't want to go back to school. It's so nice to be in such a beautiful setting and also to be doing bobsleigh and meeting so many other countries and other people who I would never had the chance to meet otherwise. It's just an amazing experience overall."

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