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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Most successful Olympic male curler ever, Canada's John Morris a guiding light for next generation at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Lausanne, Switzerland

DATE: January 17, 2020

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

If the 96 Curlers at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020 were asked for the perfect role model in their sport, Canada's John Morris would surely be very high on that list.

The 40-year-old is the only man to win two Olympic titles - first with Kevin Martin in Vancouver 2010 and second with his Mixed Doubles partner, Kaitlyn Lawes, in PyeongChang 2018.

So it's not surprising that he was named one of the 26 Athlete Role Models (ARMs) at the Winter YOG in Lausanne.

ARMs have an array of responsibilities in their roles, including sharing their experiences in the Youth Olympic Village and during educational activities. Some of the topics the ARMs cover include skills development, career management, injury prevention and integrity.

Morris said: *"Well I'm pretty much here to provide. If they have a question for me about curling, about strategy, if they're struggling with something, if they are being stressed out. If they get really nervous before a game, I am here to help them with that and I really want to be able to relate to them. Because I know when I was young like that I got very nervous for games and it would have been very nice to talk to someone who had been through that before."*

The field for the Winter YOG 2020 has expanded from 16 to 24 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in Mixed Teams event. Norway beat Japan in the final to claim gold.

Now teams will be placed into 48 mixed pairs with different nations competing together for the tournament that begins on Saturday (January 18). The Mixed Doubles event promotes the Olympic values of "Respect, Friendship and Excellence" by pairing athletes from different nations together.



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 FILE: Aerial shot of Lausanne Youth Olympic Village, known as the Vortex

00:10 Athletes arriving outside the Vortex

00:15 Japan athletes with Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli

00:18 SOUNDBITE: John Morris, Canada. Double Olympic Curling Gold Medallist (English Language).

"Well I'm pretty much here to provide... If they have a question for me about curling, about strategy, if they're struggling with something, if they are being stressed out. If they get really nervous before a game, I am here to help them with that and I really want to be able to relate to them. Because I know when I was young like that I got very nervous for games and it would have been very nice to talk to someone who had been through that before."

00:41 FILE: John Morris wins Mixed Doubles curling gold medal with Kaitlyn Lawes at PyeongChang 2018

01:02 SOUNDBITE: John Morris, Canada. Double Olympic Curling Gold Medallist (English Language).

"I've been going to introduce myself to all the teams. A lot of them actually know me, they've watched a lot of YouTube or a lot of Olympics on TV before so they already know me, which is great, but I want to make sure to let them know I am here for them, if they need help, if they need anything at all, I'm here. Or if they just want to have dinner together or play some games together, that's what I am here for and we have created a great bond so far."

01:26 FILE John Morris during Mixed Doubles gold medal match at PyeongChang 2018

01:32 SOUNDBITE: John Morris, Canada. Double Olympic Curling Gold Medallist (English Language).

"Some of these curlers have played for five or six years at least and I think the level, you can tell and I think there's going to be some future Olympians here for sure. I'm not sure exactly who, but there's definitely a lot of good curlers here."

01:45 Action from Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 Mixed Team curling gold medal match between Norway and Japan



02:09 SOUNDBITE: John Morris, Canada. Double Olympic Curling Gold Medallist (English Language).

“The best thing about the Youth Olympic Games is they really stress and emphasise to have fun, to meet new people from around the world and also to play the game because you love the game and not for the money or the accolades or the credit. You play for the right reasons and I think that is one of the best things about the Youth Olympic Games.”

02:27 Norway win the Mixed Team curling gold medal match with last stone of extra end against Japan

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