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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Third time lucky, Colombian speedskater Diego Martinez takes silver at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: St Moritz Speedskating Oval

DATE: January 16, 2020

LANGUAGE: Spanish

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

STORY SCRIPT:

It was third time lucky for Colombian speed skater Diego Amaya Martinez on the St Moritz ice on Thursday, when he won the silver medal in the Men's Mass Start final, his last event of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020.

Picked out as one to watch ahead of the Games, Martinez finished an agonising fourth in both of his previous events - the 500 metres and the 1500 metres - the former by just 0.38 seconds.

Those disappointments left him all the more determined to take full advantage of his final chance to grasp Olympic glory.

The mass start itself is a fairly new event, making its Olympic debut at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.

In St Moritz, 15 skaters started both of the 10-lap semi-finals, with extra points awarded for the intermediate sprints on the fourth and seventh laps and the fastest eight skaters in each of the two heats progressing to the final.

The final itself still had the two sprint laps, but the medals were decided simply by who crossed the line first at the end of the race.

Martinez skated fairly conservatively in his heat, conserving his energy for the final but still qualifying as the 11th fastest racer.

In the final itself, he kept with the pack until late on when a burst of speed saw him force his way into contention for a podium place, finished second.



Speed skating might not be considered a natural fit for a boy from Colombia, but inspired by watching the sport on television during the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014, he was encouraged to change his rollerblades for skates and persuade his family to leave his homeland for the USA.

It's likely that his rollerblading past stood him in good stead on this occasion - enabling him to stay out of trouble in the pack and time his finish well.

One of only two athletes this Games representing his country, Martinez is hoping that his story can inspire others in his homeland to give winter sports more of a chance.

The 16 year old has relished everything about his St Moritz experience and now has the Beijing 2022 Winter Games set firmly in his sights.

SHOTLIST: Olympia Bobrun, St Moritz, Switzerland

00:05 Various scenic shots of the lake

00:12 Wide shot of crowd gathering to watch the racing

00:15 Diego Amaya Martinez ahead of semi-final race

00:24 Various shots of the race with Martinez having number 2 on his helmet

00:35 SOUNDBITE: Diego Amaya Martinez, Colombia, Silver Medallist, Men's Mass Start Speed Skating (Spanish Language). [on the importance of the medal today after his previous disappointments]

"I wanted the medal a lot. I have always been fourth (in the other events in Lausanne 2020), very close to the podium and I didn't want to leave this great event without a medal, so today I competed with all of my heart to win a medal for my country."

00:48 Race action

01:02 SOUNDBITE: Diego Amaya Martinez, Colombia, Silver Medallist, Men's Mass Start Speed Skating (Spanish Language). [on what inspired him to get into the sport]

"I watched the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games on television and I loved it, and I wanted to be a speed skater so I said that to my mother and she helped me a lot."

01:16 Mid shot of Martinez ahead of the final with number 11 on his helmet

01:20 Martinez is announced to the crowd ahead of the race

01:29 Action from the final

01:44 SOUNDBITE: Diego Amaya Martinez, Colombia, Silver Medallist, Men's Mass Start Speed Skating (Spanish Language). [on the race in the final]

"So it was hard to be fourth and to have lost the podium for a short time. But in the end, everything was good with my final lap."



01:57 Martinez with delegates from the Colombian team

02:07 Martinez celebrates with Colombian flag

02:11 Celebrations among the Colombian team

02:16 Martinez with his coach

02:21 SOUNDBITE: Diego Amaya Martinez, Colombia, Silver Medallist, Men's Mass Start Speed Skating (Spanish Language). [on inspiring other Colombian athletes]

"Yes it's very important for me because I would like to be an example for other people and show that nothing is impossible and everything is possible."

02:32 Martinez on podium for Mascot Ceremony

02:42 All medallists on podium

02:49 Martinez with Colombian bobsleigh coach, flag and mascot

02:53 Martinez with his mother

02:58 Various of Martinez celebrating on the ice with his team

03:09 SOUNDBITE: Diego Amaya Martinez, Colombia, Silver Medallist, Men's Mass Start Speed Skating (Spanish Language).

"I have loved all of the experience in St Moritz. The lake, it was a beautiful experience to have competed in something new... And it was full of hard moments and beautiful moments like this."

03:22 Martinez on the ice with his supporters

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