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STORY HEADLINE: 16-year-old Noa Szollos wins Israel’s first ever medal at a Winter Olympic Games with bronze in the Super Giant Slalom at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Les Diablerets Alpine Centre, Switzerland
DATE: January 10, 2020
LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT: Israeli skier Noa Szollos claimed her country’s first ever Winter Olympic medal with a stunning performance to win bronze in the Women’s Super Giant Slalom (Super-G) at Lausanne 2020.

The 16-year-old was hoping for a top ten finish and surpassed all expectations. She was the 26th starter out of 62 competitors and was fastest when she crossed the line in 56.36 seconds. In the end she had to settle for bronze as Amelie Klopfenstein of Switzerland and France’s Caitlin McFarlane took gold and silver respectively.

Szollos was watched by her father Peter, a former world championship skier. Her brother Barnabas finished seventh in the slalom at the Youth Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer four years ago.

Lausanne 2020 is the third edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (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 (China), Kosovo, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Trinidad & Tobago..

Lausanne 2020 features five new events, Women’s Nordic Combined, Individual Normal Hill/4km, Women’s Doubles Luge, Ice Hockey Mixed NOC 3x3 Tournament, Freeski Big Air, Snowboard Big Air. One new sport has also been added to the programme, Ski Mountaineering that includes five events: Women’s and Men’s Individual, Women’s and Men’s Sprint and Mixed NOC Relay.

The first Winter Youth Olympic Games took place in Innsbruck in 2012. The second edition was held in the Norwegian city of Lillehammer in 2016.
SHOTLIST:

00:05 Israeli athlete Noa Szollos begins Super-G run
00:13 Noa Szollos crosses the finish line
00:22 Noa Szollos celebrates with Swiss athlete Amelie Klopfenstein and French athlete Caitlin McFarlane
00:25 Shots of Noa Szollos, Amelie Klopfenstein and Caitlin McFarlane appearing on stage at award ceremony
00:39 Noa Szollos receives bronze medal
00:58 Swiss, French and Israeli flags being raised
01:03 Noa Szollos, Amelie Klopfenstein and Caitlin McFarlane on podium during award ceremony
01:08 Noa Szollos, Amelie Klopfenstein and Caitlin McFarlane on stage
01:21 Noa Szollos, Amelie Klopfenstein and Caitlin McFarlane after award ceremony

“I couldn’t be any prouder. It’s an amazing feeling and I can’t describe it. It’s really fantastic.”

01:34 Noa Szollos, Amelie Klopfenstein and Caitlin McFarlane pose for picture

01:42 SOUNDBITE: Noa Szollos, Israel. Bronze Medallist, Women’s Super-G (English Language).
“At first, it looked difficult, at first glance. But when I was actually on the course it didn’t seem as difficult. On the top I had a few mistakes but other than that I had a perfect run.”

01:57 Close-up of bronze medal

02:02 SOUNDBITE: Noa Szollos, Israel. Bronze Medallist, Women’s Super-G (English Language).
“I hope I made everyone proud at home. I guess it’s a big deal, it’s the very first Olympic medal in the Winter Games no matter if youth or normal Olympics for Israel. So, I think it means a lot.”

02:23 Noa Szollos kisses her medal

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