Germany’s Alexander Czudaj follows father by winning Youth Olympic title as he shares Monobob Gold with Romania’s Andrei Nica at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Olympia Bob Run, St Moritz, Switzerland.

DATE: January 20, 2020

LANGUAGE: Romanian, German

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

STORY SCRIPT:

On the final day of sliding in St Moritz, the most dramatic finish came in the Men’s Monobob, where Germany’s Alexander Czudaj and Andrei Nica of Romania ended up sharing the gold medal in a sport timed to one hundredth of a second.

It was a particularly sweet result for Czudaj, his father Harald, won Gold in the Men’s Fourman Bobsleigh in Lillehammer in 1994.

18-year-old Nica, who was fastest on the first run, looked on as his 17-year-old German rival set the time to beat.

Czudaj then suffered the anxious wait at the bottom of the run to see if his time was enough for victory. Nica made mistakes on his final run but he still enjoyed enough time end to tie with his German rival.

Both were given an overall time of 2:24.800. Quentin Sanzo of Liechtenstein won bronze.

Czudaj only took up the event when he suffered an arm injury that stopped him from taking part in javelin, and says his father is his inspiration.

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 Various of Andrei Nica on Gold Medal winning run
00:28 Andrei Nica celebrating after finishing
00:31 Various Alexander Czudaj on Gold Medal winning run
00:51 Alexander Czudaj celebrating after finishing

00:56 SOUNDbite: Andrei Nica (Romania). Gold Medallist, Men’s Monobob. (Romanian Language)
“This is a strange and new feeling to me. It’s hard to describe it, it’s something that has never happened to me. Of course being in first place makes me very happy despite sharing this result with another athlete, Alexander Czudaj. I am aware I could have done better!”

01:22 Andrei Nica psyching himself up before run

01:28 SOUNDbite: Andrei Nica (Romania). Gold Medallist, Men’s Monobob. (Romanian Language)
“To have the entire team supporting me all the way to the finish line was absolutely amazing. Their encouragement mean so much to me! I am proud of myself, of the team and my evolution.”

01:55 Andrei Nica congratulated by bronze medallist Quentin Sanzo

02:00 SOUNDbite: Andrei Nica (Romania). Gold Medallist, Men’s Monobob. (Romanian Language)
“I owe this amazing result to my team, for having supported and encouraged me from the beginning to the end. It’s not so much the hard work or the trainings, it’s the emotional support that contributed the most to today’s amazing result!”

02:22 Andrei Nica climbs out of Monobob

02:28 SOUNDbite: Alexander Czudaj (Germany). Gold Medallist, Men’s Monobob. (German Language)
“Of course he (father) is a big inspiration. It is so cool that he did this and I can walk in his footsteps. It’s super cool.”

02:38 Alexander Czudaj celebrating with bronze medallist Quentin Sanzo

02:42 SOUNDbite: Alexander Czudaj (Germany). Gold Medallist, Men’s Monobob. (German Language)
“Yeah he helped me get into the sport. He had all the contacts. He didn't force me into it. He tries to come as often as he can to the run. He stands behind the trainer and helps where he can - it’s a big help.”

03:03 Alexander Czudaj at end of Gold Medal winning run

03:07 **SOUNDbite**: Alexander Czudaj (Germany). Gold Medallist, Men’s Monobob. (German Language)

“It is always important physically and mentally to be strong. I had an injury 4 days ago. I had to recover as fast as possible. It worked very well, I had a bit of pain. Mentally it’s important not to be down and focus on your goal and you do everything you can to achieve it.”

03:38 Various Men’s Monobob Medal Ceremony, St Moritz Medals Plaza

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