The Republic of Korea totally dominated the first day of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Short Track Speed Skating competition winning gold and silver medals in both Men's and Women's 1,000m.

The Women's final turned out to be a battle between two South Koreans for gold and silver. 17-year-old Whi Min Seo, from Anyang Gyeo-gi, edged out her compatriot Chanseo Kim by just under a tenth of a second to take gold, Kim settling for silver. Canada's Florence Brunelle won bronze.

It was a similar story in the men's 1,000m, another one-two for the Republic of Korea. 17-year-old Sangwoo Jang, from Daegu, won the sprint battle for the line. He pipped his compatriot Jeongmin Lee, also 17, to the line by 0.115 seconds, the pair congratulating each other after the race. China's Konachao Li won bronze.

Both competitions began with a preliminary round of eight heats, with the fastest 16 athletes reaching the quarter finals, then the fastest eight made it the two semi-finals and the top two in those going through to the final.

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 Shots of women start
00:17 Shots of women on track
00:29 Shots of women crossing the finish line
00:39 South Korea skaters Whi Min Seo and Chanseo Kim hold national flag
00:44 Whi Min Seo at Mascot Ceremony
00:58 Chanseo Kim, Whi Min Seo and Canada’s Florence Brunelle at Mascot Ceremony

**01:04 SOUNDBITE:** Whi Min Seo, (Republic of Korea). Gold Medallist, Short Track Women’s 1000M (Korean Language).

“I was really nervous but I tried to do the best that I can, and I have friends with me that are skating together, so I was a little more confident “

01:17 Women competing

**01:19 SOUNDBITE:** Whi Min Seo, (Republic of Korea). Gold Medallist, Short Track Women’s 1000M (Korean Language).

“I have the ability to go well at the start and I utilised that to perform well today. That was my strategy.”

01:34 Women skate after they crossed the finish line

**01:38 SOUNDBITE:** Whi Min Seo, (Republic of Korea). Gold Medallist, Short Track Women’s 1000M (Korean Language).

“I didn’t think, and I didn’t expect to win Gold today, but I did my best and I am so happy that I have received Gold in a big event like the Youth Olympics.”

01:54 Various shots from the women’s medal ceremony
02:31 Action from the Men’s 1000m short track speed skating
03:07 Sangwoo Jang holds flag of South Korea
03:11 Sangwoo Jang on podium at Mascot Ceremony
03:27 Jeongmin Lee, Sangwoo Jang and China’s Kongchao Li on podium during Mascot Ceremony

**03:30 SOUNDBITE:** Sangwoo Jang (Republic of Korea). Gold Medallist, Short Track Men’s 1000M (Korean Language).

“I didn’t think about having the strategy in my head, just when I was on the rink I decided at the time the best way. That was my strategy.”

03:38 Sangwoo Jang holding flag of South Korea

**03:41 SOUNDBITE:** Sangwoo Jang (Republic of Korea). Gold Medallist, Short Track Men’s 1000M (Korean Language).
"I spent a lot of time researching what would be the best way for me to skate, and I think I have recognised it for this event."

03:49 Men cross the finish line

03:53 SOUNDBITE: Sangwoo Jang (Republic of Korea). Gold Medallist, Short Track Men's 1000M (Korean Language).

“This is not only my first Olympic experience, but it is also my first international experience, and this was a very different atmosphere for me, compared to the national events I have been attending, and I think this could be a great opportunity for me to develop, as I have been competing with great athletes who were here before me.”

04:12 Various shots from the men’s medal ceremony

-- ENDS --

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