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STORY HEADLINE: New Zealand artist Zakea Page awarded first medals of Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 for grand design.

LOCATION: IOC Headquarters, Lausanne, Switzerland
DATE: January 9th, 2020

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT: As a young boy growing up in New Zealand, Zakea Page dreamed of winning an Olympic Gold medal. Now, as a budding artist, he has experienced a different Golden moment, but one that fulfilled his Olympic dream.

The 21-year-old has designed the medals for the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020 and ahead of the opening ceremony, he was presented with a commemorative set of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach.

Page, a talented field hockey player, won a competition to design the medals. His entry, entitled Beauty In Diversity, came out on top of 300 entries from 60 different countries. He narrowly missed out on the winning design for the Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires 2018, and was determined to strike gold for Lausanne.

Page said his design incorporated the five continents all directed to a single point, which represents Lausanne, where the youth of the world are coming together for 13 days of competition.

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. The medal events begin tomorrow (January 10) and the Closing Ceremony is on January 22.

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 Shots from inside of Olympic House the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne.
00:16 Shot of the Greek olive tree sculpture inside the Olympic House
00:25 Shot of New Zealand medal designer Zakea Page chatting.
00:29 Zakea Page shakes hands and hugs IOC President Thomas Bach

00:36 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).
“You can see that he competed already for designing a medal for Buenos Aires and there, like in a real athletes life, it didn’t work out but as we always say never give up and he did not give up and here he is now this morning joining the Olympic family in this very special way. Congratulations."

01:14 IOC President Thomas Bach shakes hands with Zakea Page

01:18 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).
“A whole set of the medals he so beautifully designed for us and the Organising committee. So thank you.”

01:37 Close up of Zakea Page and the medals he designed
01:43 Wide shot of the medal design delegation

01:50 SOUNDbite: Zakea Page, Lausanne 2020 Medal Designer (English Language).
“It’s just a huge privilege because you know, you have all the world class athletes coming here and they’re competing for the medal. So to design that medal is just really humbling and I’m really grateful. I’m just really excited to be here and watch the Games and see what I can learn from the athletes here.”

02:10 Close up of Zakea Page with Thomas Bach posing for the media.

02:14 SOUNDbite: Zakea Page, Lausanne 2020 Medal Designer (English Language).
“My inspiration was Maya Angelou and her quote ‘in beauty there’s diversity’, to show that where we excel most is when we have different cultures, when we have different people with different ideas, backgrounds, religions, food, languages etc, this is all the spicy stuff that makes the world exciting and so I think that’s all the stuff that needs to be celebrated so that’s sort of where my inspiration was from.”

02:49 Zakea Page chats with IOC President Thomas Bach

02:55 SOUNDbite: Zakea Page, Lausanne 2020 Medal Designer (English Language).
“The design had 5 spirals each spiral representing a continent of the world, one of the Olympic rings, and each spiral is going and centring towards a certain specific place which is Lausanne here because all the athletes are coming here to celebrate their sport and celebrate all the hard work they’ve put into their work.”

03:22 Close up of Zakea Page holding the Lausanne 2020 medals
03:28 Close up of the Lausanne 2020 medals

03:33 SOUNDBITE: Zakea Page, Lausanne 2020 Medal Designer (English Language).
“Striving for excellence, you know its not fastest, highest, strongest, it’s about being better and being the best that you can be, and so I feel like that’s what I put into this design as well, is trying to strive for excellence, trying to strive for greatness and it’s the strive and the journey that’s the most important.”

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