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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Swedish Freestyle Skier Erik Wahlberg holds off Russian rivals in Men's Ski Cross Big Final to win Gold at Youth Olympic Games, Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Villars Winter Park, Switzerland

DATE: January 19, 2020

LANGUAGE: Swedish

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Sweden's Erik Wahlberg held off the challenge of two Russian rivals in the Big Final of the Men's Ski Cross to win gold at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), Lausanne 2020.

17-year-old victory Wahlberg, wearing the green bib, beat silver medallist Artern Bazhin of Russia by just 0.21 second on a difficult day at the Villars Winter Park with high winds causing delays.

Bronze medallist Andrei Gorbachev was 1.9 seconds behind the winner, edging out Austria's Marcus Plank for a place on the podium

Ski Cross consists of qualification and finals (semi-finals, the small final and big final.) The specially designed cross course is set up on a natural terrain with artificial features including turns, roller sections, jumps and banked turns. In the qualification, the competitors take a timed run, and the top 16 ranked competitors go through to the finals. In the finals, competitors are divided into group heats of four competitors.

There are 20 group heats in the "round robin" format. All competitors eventually compete against each other and based upon the ranking of each heat are awarded points (1st=4 pts, 2nd=3 pts, 3rd=2 pts, 4th=1 pt.).

After the group heats, the top eight ranked competitors advance to the semi-finals. The top two ranked competitors from each semi-final advance to the big final, while the remaining competitors move to the small final. The top three competitors in the big final are awarded YOG medals.

The remaining competitors are ranked according to results of the big final, small final, group heats and qualification.



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 Action from the Men's Ski Cross
00:43 Erik Wahlberg crosses the finish line
00:57 Erik Wahlberg after race

01:05 SOUNDBITE: Erik Wahlberg, Gold medallist, Men's Ski Cross (Swedish Language).

"It feels awesome. It's really cool, you definitely need to try it some time."

01:09 Erik Wahlberg at the mascot ceremony

01:18 SOUNDBITE: Erik Wahlberg, Gold medallist, Men's Ski Cross (Swedish Language).

"At the start I was third, but then the first and second guys were bumping into each other, and that gave me time to build up my speed behind, which made me find an opening to get ahead of them on the inside."

01:40 The medallists on the podium

01:50 SOUNDBITE: Erik Wahlberg, Gold medallist, Men's Ski Cross (Swedish Language).

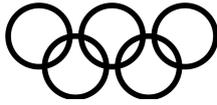
"To keep focused and have your mind focused. To keep myself focused on my race and not think about what the others are doing. I can't control their result."

02:05 Sweden's Erik Wahlberg, silver medallist Artern Bazhin of Russia and Bronze medallist Andrei Gorbachev of Russia appear on stage during the medal ceremony at Medal Plaza in Lausanne

02:11 Erik Wahlberg on podium receiving Gold medal

02:29 Swedish and two Russian flags are being raised

02:38 Artern Bazhin, Erik Wahlberg and Andrei Gorbachev on podium during the medal ceremony pose for pictures



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