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STORY HEADLINE: Republic of Korea continue dominance of Short Track Speed Skating with double Gold in both Men's and Women's 500m at Winter Youth Olympic Games

LOCATION: Lausanne Skating Arena, Lausanne, Switzerland

DATE: January 20, 2020

LANGUAGE: Korean

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Short track Speed Skater Whi Min Seo completed a Golden double at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020, by winning the Women's 500m to go along with her 1000m title she secured earlier in the Games.

And in the men's 500m, the Republic of Korea's Jeongmin Lee and Sungwoo Jang finished in first and second, the reverse of their 1000m event where Jang won Gold and Lee took Silver.

With the fourth edition of the Winter YOG taking place in PyeongChang in 2024, the Republic of Korea's Short Track stars of 2020 have provided plenty of inspiration to their compatriots to star in four years time.

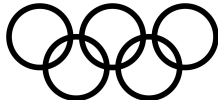
In the Women's 500m, Whi Min Seo, 17, won by almost 2 seconds from silver medallist Michelle Velzeboer of the Netherlands. Canada's Florence Brunelle claimed bronze.

The Men's 500m was a much closer battle between the two Koreans, with Lee pipping Jang by less than a quarter of a second. They were over seven seconds clear of the bronze medallist, Tianyi Zhang of China.

Gold medallist Lee celebrates his 18th birthday on Saturday (January 25).

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,



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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 Women start racing

00:08 Action from Women's 500m Short Track Speed Skating

00:22 Whi Min Seo of Republic of Korea crosses the finish line

00:07 Whi Min Seo after the race

00:33 SOUNDBITE: Whi Min Seo, Republic of Korea Gold medallist in the Women's 500m Short Track Speed Skating (Korean Language).

"I think there are a lot of strong competitors from other countries in the 500m event, but I was lucky to get a good start to the race and that's why I won."

00:50 Competition in progress

00:04 Whi Min Seo at mascot ceremony

01:07 SOUNDBITE: Whi Min Seo, Republic of Korea. Gold medallist in the Women's 500m Short Track Speed Skating (Korean Language).

"I didn't have a specific strategy for the 500m event, the only thing I thought was to stay calm at the beginning of the race and not fall."

01:18 Whi Min Seo, Michelle Velzeboer of the Netherlands and Canada's Florence Brunelle on podium at mascot ceremony

01:31 SOUNDBITE: Whi Min Seo, Republic of Korea. Gold medallist in the Women's 500m Short Track Speed Skating (Korean Language).

"I have poor reflexes, but I focus my training on improving this aspect, and that's why I got this good result."

01:43 Whi Min Seo, Michelle Velzeboer and Florence Brunelle at medal ceremony

01:50 Whi Min Seo on podium receiving gold medal

02:05 Flags of Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and Canada are being raised

02:12 Whi Min Seo at medal ceremony

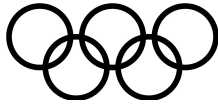
02:19 Whi Min Seo, Michelle Velzeboer and Florence Brunelle on podium at medal ceremony

02:26 Men start the race

02:30 Competition in progress

02:44 Jeongmin Lee crosses the finish line

02:50 SOUNDBITE: Jeongmin Lee, Republic of Korea. Gold medallist in the Men's 500m Short Track Speed Skating (Korean language).



"Back in Korean there were many competitors that were faster than me at the start and I raced many times in the fourth lane, which helped me win the race today."

03:08 Men's race in progress

03:12 Jeongmin Lee crosses the finish line followed by Sungwoo Jang

03:16 SOUNDBITE: Jeongmin Lee, Republic of Korea. Gold medallist in the Men's 500m Short Track Speed Skating (Korean language).

"In 1,000m events I tend to start the race from behind, but competing in these international event has made me realise that I need to improve and practice more to race ahead."

03:39 Sungwoo Jang at mascot ceremony

03:54 Jeongmin Lee at mascot ceremony

04:11 Sungwoo Jang, Jeongmin Lee and Tianyi Zhang at mascot ceremony

04:18 SOUNDBITE: Jeongmin Lee, Republic of Korea. Gold medallist in the Men's 500m Short Track Speed Skating (Korean language).

"Last year I trained hard aiming to win a medal at the Winter Youth Olympic Games and that's the secret to my victory."

04:39 Sungwoo Jang, Jeongmin Lee and Tianyi Zhang at medal ceremony

04:49 Sungwoo Jang on podium receiving silver medal

04:56 Jeongmin Lee on podium receiving gold medal

05:10 Flags of the Republic of Korea and China being raised

05:16 Jeongmin Lee on podium

05:21 Sungwoo Jang, Jeongmin Lee and Tianyi Zhang on podium pose for pictures

-- ENDS --

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