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STORY HEADLINE: 11-year-old British skateboarding sensation Sky Brown ready to star at Tokyo 2020

LOCATION: Lausanne, Switzerland
DATE: January 12, 2020

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT: Sky Brown isn’t your normal 11-year-old. The skateboarding sensation wants to be a leading light for women around the world as she aims to make her Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020.

Brown looks destined to become one of the faces of Team GB this summer and she is seeing the Olympic experience first hand at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Lausanne, which runs until January 22.

She speaks with an authority beyond her years when she says: “I want to be in the Olympics to inspire girls, to show them that you can do anything. I am not really feeling any nerves, so that’s good.

“I love being the youngest, kind of, because I want to show girls, because people think that you’re too young, you can’t do it and I want to show them that it doesn’t matter about your size or your age.”

Brown is based in Japan, but also gets schooled in the US as she travels the world perfecting new skateboard tricks in her pursuit of excellence. Her father is British, and the family believed the nation of his birth was her best chance of international recognition.

Brown will be 12 when the Tokyo Olympic Games gets underway and if, as expected, she is named in the Great Britain team this summer, 11-year old Sky Brown will become Britain’s youngest ever Olympian and the youngest Olympian from any competing country since 1992.

“The skate park is like a playground, it’s not really like a training thing for me, it’s just me skating a learning new tricks. Yeah I don’t have a coach or anything,” admits young Sky.
Her new found fame on a skateboard hasn’t fazed young Sky at all. Brown has already appeared on TV show ‘Dancing With The Stars Juniors,’ and while for now she is enjoying mixing with the Youth Olympic stars in Lausanne, she’s sure to hit centre stage in Tokyo later this year.

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.

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 Close up skateboarder Sky Brown adjusting crash helmet
00:12 Slo-mo skateboard
00:19 Various Sky Brown on skateboard
01:11 Sky Brown lifts skateboard above her head
01:24 Various Sky Brown on skateboard

02:12 SOUNDBITE: Sky Brown, Skateboarder (English Language).
“The skate park is like a playground, it’s not really like a training thing for me, it’s just me skating a learning new tricks. Yeah I don’t have a coach or anything.”

02:23 Slo-mo Sky Brown on skateboard

02:28 SOUNDBITE: Sky Brown, Skateboarder (English Language).
“I go to school as much as I can. I have a regular school in Japan and I go to school in America as well, and when I am travelling I get to do it online so that makes it a lot easier.”

02:45 Slo-mo close up Sky Brown

02:50 SOUNDBITE: Sky Brown, Skateboarder (English Language).
“I want to be in the Olympics to inspire girls, to show them that you can do anything. I am not really feeling any nerves, so that’s good.”

03:03 Slo-mo Sky Brown on skateboard

03:12 SOUNDBITE: Sky Brown, Skateboarder (English Language).
“I love being the youngest, kind of, because I want to show girls, because people think that you’re too young, you can’t do it and I want to show them that it doesn’t matter about your size or your age. You can do anything.”

03:25 Slo-mo Sky Brown on skateboard

03:31 SOUNDBITE: Sky Brown, Skateboarder (English Language).
“I want to come here to get a little bit of the feeling for it and just come to Switzerland because I have never been here before, and see what the opening ceremony is and to meet a couple of Youth Olympic stars.”

03:49 Slo-mo Sky Brown on skateboard

03:54 SOUNDBITE: Sky Brown, Skateboarder (English Language).
“I really like figure skating because I was on Dancing With The Stars Juniors, so that’s basically similar but on ice, so that’s harder, But yeah I love figure skating.”

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