Josie Baff wins Australia’s first gold medal at Winter Youth Olympic Games with victory in Women’s Snowboard Cross, Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Villars Winter Park, Switzerland
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LANGUAGE: English

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STORY SCRIPT:
Josie Baff won Australia’s first gold medal of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG), Lausanne 2020 with a breathtakingly tight victory in the Women’s Snowboard Cross.

16-year-old Baff, in the red bib, battled with Margaux Herpin of France for the line. The Australian edged home by just 5 hundredths of a second.

Switzerland’s Anouk Doerig, in the yellow bib, was also in contention but ended the race in bronze, half a second behind the winner.

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 Women’s Snowboard Cross.
00:15 Australia’s Josie Baff crosses the finish line.
00:24 Josie Baff, Margaux Herpin of France and Switzerland’s Anouk Doerig waving.
00:31 Josie Baff on podium during mascot ceremony.
00:45 Josie Baff, Margaux Herpin and Anouk Doerig on podium during mascot ceremony.

00:51 SOUNDbite: Josie Baff (Australia). Gold medallist, Women’s Snowboard Cross (English Language).
“I’m feeling really good, I’m very overwhelmed, I’m shocked and I’m really proud of myself. And I’m very grateful for all of my supporters out here today helping me get to where I am and see [my result] today. My coach’s been going on crazy waxing my boards. And my family is here and some of my friends, and they are all very happy by the looks of it!”

01:11 Margaux Herpin and Anouk Doerig celebrating together.

01:15 SOUNDbite: Josie Baff (Australia). Gold medallist, Women’s Snowboard Cross (English Language).
“Well, I don’t remember much at all actually. But I remember pulling out and we were all really close neck and neck, I think I was in second and then I took a line on the toe side turn and it set me up really nicely for the rest of the course. And then I don’t know, I kind of tried to hold my ground and then I thought I was going down at one stage but I could feel everyone behind me and wanted to keep going and push through it.”

01:40 Action from the end of the women’s snowboard cross final.

01:44 SOUNDbite: Josie Baff (Australia). Gold medallist, Women’s Snowboard Cross (English Language).
“Yeah it’s just insane honestly, I can’t believe it. I’m doing it for Australia!”

01:51 Shots from the medal ceremony of the women’s snowboard cross

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