Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Athlete Role Model Tara Geraghty-Moats of USA says ‘Olympic spirit is not just about winning medals’

LOCATION: Lausanne, Switzerland
DATE: January 19, 2020
LANGUAGE: English, Italian

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Women’s Nordic combined made its debut at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) on Saturday (January 18) and the best female nordic combined athlete in the world was there to witness it.

American Tara Geraghty-Moats is in no doubt what a huge step forward it is for the sport to be included in the programme at the Winter YOG Lausanne 2020.

The 26-year-old is one of the Athlete Role Models (ARMs) appointed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne and she said: “I’m here to help support the Youth Olympians and help support the Olympic spirit, and I’m really looking forward to seeing the women’s Nordic combined in the event because this is the first time that the Games will have complete gender parity, gender equality and that will be a really monumental moment to watch, it will be Olympic history in the making. And there’ll also be so many other moments that are Olympic history in the making and I can’t wait to be inspired by all the young athletes.”

Austria’s Lisa Herner won the historic first gold at Lausanne 2020 and while Geraghty-Moats knows that some of the athletes competing at the Winter YOG could soon be her rivals on the senior stage, she has embraced her ARM role, spending time with athletes from many nations around the Olympic Village.

She said: “My advice to them is to enjoy every minute and really experience the whole experience and not just be concerned about their performance and about the medals. Of course, it’s really important to focus, but the Olympic spirit isn’t just about winning medals, it’s about connection and unity of different countries, and the communication between different countries, and being able to be a very small kid or a kid from a very small town
and see the world and share that with their communities back home and be role models for the children back home.”

Geraghty-Moats, who hails from Lebanon, New Hampshire, in the United States, is the best woman in the world at the Nordic combined event that involves cross country skiing and ski jumping. She won ten straight events last year on her way to winning the Continental Cup.

Men’s Nordic combined has been in the Olympic Winter Games since 1924.

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 SOUNDBITE: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“I’m here to help support the Youth Olympians and help support the Olympic spirit, and I’m really looking forward to seeing the women’s Nordic combined in the event because this is the first time that the Games will have complete gender parity, gender equality and that will be a really monumental moment to watch, it will be Olympic history in the making. And there’ll also be so many other moments that are Olympic history in the making and I can’t wait to be inspired by all the young athletes.”

00:36 Kazakhstan Team members talk to Tara Geraghty-Moats at Youth Olympic Village
00:44 Close up of Tara Geraghty-Moats

00:49 SOUNDBITE: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“I’ll be working at a lot of the stations around, like ’Athlete 365’, and education for the athletes and I’ll also be on the venues and helping give advice and support the athletes at the venues.”

01:03 Tara Geraghty-Moats talks to Team Kazakhstan members, gives them high-five

01:07 SOUNDBITE: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“As a young athlete, a lot of the athletes here are having their first international competition and it can be a little bit scary and they can be a little bit nervous. So, when they have older athletes to look up to you and ask questions of, it is also of a comforting presence, and I
think it’s also important for us as older athletes to understand what the youth are doing. And some of these athletes will for sure be in the next Olympic Games, so maybe we will be seeing our competitors soon, too.”

01:42 Tara Geraghty-Moats talks to young athletes from Italy
01:46 Young athletes from Team Italy
01:49 Close-up of Tara Geraghty-Moats talking

01:54 SOUNDbite: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“My advice to them is to enjoy every minute and really experience the whole experience and not just be concerned about their performance and about the medals. Of course, it’s really important to focus, but the Olympic spirit isn’t just about winning medals, it’s about connection and unity of different countries, and the communication between different countries, and being able to be a very small kid or a kid from a very small town and see the world and share that with their communities back home and be role models for the children back home.”

02:33 Shots of Tara Geraghty-Moats talking to young athletes

03:13 Tara Geraghty-Moats talking to young athletes from Team Great Britain

03:19 SOUNDbite: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“So, growing up I started competing in the Nordic sports pretty young, when I was nine, but when I was a youth and a child I didn’t have the opportunity to compete in Nordic combined. So, it’s really full circle I’ve done a lot over the years to help inspire other girls to compete and help the sport grow and also compete myself. So, watching the step happen and watching women’s Nordic combined become an Olympic event is really a dream come true.”

03:38 Tara Geraghty-Moats talking to young athletes

03:56 SOUNDbite: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“My first international competition was actually a Continental Cup in ski jumping when I was just 11 years old. The rules were a little bit different then, so I could compete when I was that young. And I was looking at the older athletes just in awe and I couldn’t have ever imagined being that good and it was an inspiration just to be able to compete with them, and so motivating, and I did so badly. But it just motivated me to work harder.”

04:25 Shots of Tara Geraghty-Moats leaving message on wall at cafe in Youth Olympic Village
04:36 SOUNDBITE: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“If I’ve had a chance to compete in the Youth Olympics as a young athlete I think I would have had the opportunity to perform at a high level sooner and I would have had the opportunity to make a lot of lifelong friendships and connect with the greater skiing world and family in winter sports world sooner, which would have been an amazing opportunity, but I had to wait a little bit longer for those opportunities for sure.”

05:04 Gold medallist Lisa Hirner during ski jumping section of women’s Nordic combined Lausanne 2020

05:20 SOUNDBITE: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“I’m a winter sports athlete because I genuinely think it makes me a better person, it pushes me to grow not just athletically, but on many different planes. I can travel, I can meet amazing new people and I can bring the love of sport to the world which I think hopefully makes people happier and makes the world a better place, and especially with the work that I’ve been doing with Nordic combined to make it a more gender equal sport. I think I really have the opportunity to change the world through sport, which is really inspiring to me.”

05:55 Gold medallist Lisa Hirner crosses line to win women’s Nordic combined competition at Lausanne 2020

06:05 SOUNDBITE: Tara Geraghty-Moats (English Language).
“I’ll definitely be cheering on all the competitors, but I know all the US athletes so well and it’s been amazing to see them develop as athletes, so, I’ll be on the sidelines cheering for them.”

06:16 Tara Geraghty-Moats congratulating athletes after Nordic combined competition

06:22 SOUNDBITE: Jessica Malsinger, Team Italy member (English Language).
“It was good to meet Tara because she showed us the Village and she made us speak with other people from other countries. And she spoke with us about her career, and it’s very great.”

06:46 Tara Geraghty-Moats congratulating athletes after Nordic combined competition

06:54 SOUNDBITE: Jessica Malsinger, Team Italy member (Italian Language).
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