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STORY HEADLINE: Big day in big air for Japan as they take gold in men’s and women’s snowboard events on final afternoon of action at Winter Youth Olympic Games

LOCATION: Leysin Park & Pipe, Switzerland
DATE: January 22, 2020
LANGUAGE: Japanese

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Japan played a leading role in the final day of snowboarding at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020 with gold medals in both the men’s and women’s big air, and a silver too in the men’s event.

Ryomo Kimata and Aoto Kawakami finished first and second in the men’s event, with Canada’s Liam Brearley on the podium for the third time in the Games. He had already won silver in the slopestyle and bronze in the halfpipe.

Kimata scored 195.00 points, Kawakami 191.75 and Brearley 183.25.

In the women’s event, Hinari Asanuma was a clear winner. Her total of 172.50 had her well clear of Germany’s Annika Morgan (160.50) and Melissa Peperkamp of the Netherlands (150.00), who followed up her slopestyle silver with bronze here.

The big air competition is a judged sport. The competitors perform tricks on the big air jump by taking off from a kicker and aiming to attain sizable airtime and well executed tricks, all while securing a clean solid landing. The score from the best two of three jumps in the final are combined for the final total points score.

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 have had gender equality, with equal numbers of male and female competitors in the 81 medal events. The Closing Ceremony is this evening (January 22).

1,872 athletes from 79 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) were 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 featured 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. The fourth edition will be in the Republic of Korea in 2024.

SHOTLIST:

00:05 Ryomo Kimata on gold medal run men’s big air snowboard
00:18 Ryomo Kimata waiting for score
00:26 Aoto Kawakami on silver medal run men’s big air snowboard
00:38 Aoto Kawakami receives score and celebrates
00:44 Various medal ceremony men’s big air snowboard

“I wasn’t happy with my performance in the slopestyle, but it went well this time so I’m glad.”

01:32 Replay of Ryomo Kimata on big air run

01:38 SOUNDBITE: Ryomo Kimata, Japan. Gold Medallist, Men’s Big Air Snowboard (Japanese Language).
“I have more adrenaline to try new skills during the actual tournaments and events, so I want to keep trying new skills by participating in the events.”

01:50 Replay of Aoto Kawakami on big air run

“First of all, I want to thank my family, including my parents, grandparents and relatives. And I also want to send my gratitude to my coach and my friends.”

02:22 Hinari Asanuma gold medal winning run women’s big air snowboard
02:39 Hinari Asanuma waiting for scores
02:47 All three medallists celebrate together
02:52 Various medal ceremony women’s big air snowboard

“Today, I could do my best so I’m happy to be on the podium.”

03:25 Replay of Hinari Asanuma on big air run

“I did everything I could for today’s performance so I’m happy with that.”
-- ENDS --

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