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## Story Script and Shot log

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**STORY HEADLINE:** Trinidad & Tobago's sole athlete at Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) blazing a trail for other Caribbean kids to get involved in winter sports

**LOCATION:** Lausanne, Switzerland

**DATE:** January 13, 2020

**LANGUAGE:** English

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

**STORY SCRIPT:** Abigail Vieira made history becoming the first athlete to ever represent Trinidad & Tobago's at the Winter Youth Olympic Games when she took part in the Alpine slalom events at Lausanne 2020.

The 17-year-old, who names Serena Williams as her heroine, hopes that her determination to make it in a winter sport will show the way for other youngsters from the Caribbean to believe they too belong alongside the best in the world.

*She said: "It means so much because I feel like I can be an advocate for other Trinidadian and Tobagonian skiers to go into a winter sport and represent their country in a winter sport. And it just means a lot to a lot of people back home too just to see their flag in a setting that hasn't been there before. That is one of the great things about representing."*

Abigail is the sole member of the Trinidad & Tobago team. Her father Richard is the Chef de Mission and her 19-year-old sister Ria is her assistant coach.

She has competed in the Super-G, the Slalom and the Alpine Combined events. Her best finish was 32nd in the Alpine Combined, and her performance embodied the Olympic spirit.

*She said: "I'm not trying to get first, second or third, although that would be great! But I'm just really trying to push myself harder than I ever have and I think that I have been doing that. There have definitely been times on the course that I am out of my comfort zone and I think that that's a good start for getting better."*

While in Lausanne, Vieira - who lives in Boston, Massachusetts, USA - has embraced village life, and will take home memories that will last a lifetime. "I just love how everyone is willing to meet anyone. You can meet someone from curling, you can meet someone from ice hockey and you guys could all be playing a game together. I just think that that's



so interesting too and just the fact that they try and cross borders with trading pins and stuff like that. It's great."

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:

00:03 Abigail Vieira on Giant Slalom course

**00:21 SOUNDBITE: Abigail Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago. Alpine Skier (English Language).**

*"It means so much because I feel like I can be an advocate for other Trinidadian and Tobagonian skiers to go into a winter sport and represent their country in a winter sport. And it just means a lot to a lot of people back home too just to see their flag in a setting that hasn't been there before. That is one of the great things about representing."*

00:46 Abigail Vieira finishes first run of Giant Slalom

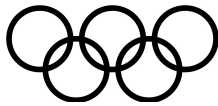
**01:02 SOUNDBITE: Abigail Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago. Alpine Skier (English Language).**

*"I think I am super lucky that I get to be with my family so I never really feel lonely, but in terms of the whole Games, the Youth Olympics they try and get everyone to know each other, so I have met so many really nice people, so I have never felt alone in this whole process."*

01:19 Abigail Vieira with member of Pakistan team

**01:24 SOUNDBITE: Abigail Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago. Alpine Skier (English Language).**

*"I just think it's great because you get so many difficult cultures, so many different countries from different teams and so you get to know so many people who have a totally different perspective than you. So just learning more about other people, I think that that's great."*



01:37 Abigail Vieira in Olympic Village

**01:41 SOUNDBITE: Abigail Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago. Alpine Skier (English Language).**

*"I just love how everyone is willing to meet anyone. You can meet someone from curling, you can meet someone from ice hockey and you guys could all be playing a game together. I just think that that's so interesting too and just the fact that they try and cross borders with trading pins and stuff like that. It's great."*

01:57 Abigail Vieira trying virtual reality game in Olympic Village

**02:15 SOUNDBITE: Abigail Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago. Alpine Skier (English Language).**

*"All competitions are definitely a whole new world, but I think that it levels how I ski too. I think that seeing so many great racers go down inspires me to want to be like that so I think that it is just a great inspiration for years to come."*

02:32 Abigail Vieira trying virtual reality game in Olympic Village

**02:38 SOUNDBITE: Abigail Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago. Alpine Skier (English Language).**

*"The most important thing for me is making sure that I am in the right mindset. Definitely when you are going down you want to be sure that you can still maintain the aggression from the start gate to the finish line, but that's the most important thing for me just making sure I am focussed and ready to go."*

02:56 Abigail Vieira signing athletes' wall in Olympic Village

**03:07 SOUNDBITE: Abigail Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago. Alpine Skier (English Language).**

*"I'm not trying to get first, second or third, although that would be great! But I'm just really trying to push myself harder than I ever have and I think that I have been doing that. There have definitely been times on the course that I am out of my comfort zone and I think that that's a good start for getting better."*

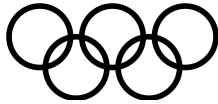
03:25 Abigail and her father, Richard Vieira, Trinidad & Tobago's Chef de Mission, in Olympic Village

**03:31 SOUNDBITE: Richard Vieira, Abigail's father and Trinidad & Tobago's Chef de Mission (English Language).**

*"It really means a lot for us and for Trinidad as well, to have Abby helping to expand the sport in an area where people would not expect it, to help discover and hopefully really inspire other kids from Caribbean islands and from other warm countries to get involved and do this sport at this level."*

04:00 Abigail Vieira and Trinidad and Tobago support team on mountain

04:07 Alison Vieira, Abigail's mother in the Olympic Village



**04:14 SOUNDBITE: Alison Vieira, Abigail's mother (English Language).**

*"You know what, when she first started in the sport I was (nervous she would get injured), but along the way she has built so many skills that actually makes her safer on the slopes and she knows more than I do. So I trust that her coaches and her skills will get her down safely, and she'll have a nice run - a good run...a safe run."*

-- ENDS --

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