More Gold medal success for Germany in Luge at Lausanne 2020 with victory in Women’s Doubles

LOCATION: St Moritz, Switzerland
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The German pair of Jessica Degenhardt and Vanessa Schneider won gold at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in the Luge Women’s Doubles Competition.

It means Germany has so far won three of the five gold medals on offer in Luge at the historic Olympia Bob Run Track in St Moritz, with just the relay to come on Monday.

17-year old Jessica Degenhardt, the silver medallist in the women’s individual competition, and her partner Vanessa Schneider, who’s also 17, were easily the fastest on both runs.

They clocked a time of 55.695 seconds on their opening run, being tracked at an average speed of 75.1 mph or 120.9 km/h.

Just before their final run, they went through an unusual routine, dancing together at the top of the routine. “It’s just our thing, our preparation. It keeps us loose and loose is fast”, Schneider said.

Overall, they were winners finishing 1.266 seconds ahead of silver medal winners Canada in a time of 1 minute 51.443 seconds. Latvia won bronze.

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 of Team Germany from the Women’s Doubles Luge final
00:34 The German team celebrate their win.
00:39 Shots from the Women’s Doubles Luge Mascot Ceremony

00:55 SOUNDbite: Jessica Doreen Degenhardt, Gold medallist, Women’s Doubles Luge (German Language).
“*It was unbelievable, I already shouted out loud in the last curve, I knew that this must be enough (for gold) but that at the end it was more than a second, I would have never thought this.*”

01:07 Action of the Team Germany from the race

01:13 SOUNDbite: Vanessa Schneider, Gold medallist, Women’s Doubles Luge (German Language).
“The trust and the fact that we have so much fun together and that we both know how to be relaxed… We just have so much fun together, and this is so awesome.”

01:23 SOUNDbite: Jessica Doreen Degenhardt, Gold medallist, Women’s Doubles Luge (German Language).
“I think that due to the fact that we are good friends we are much more in harmony.”

01:28 Germany Team celebrate

01:33 SOUNDbite: Jessica Doreen Degenhardt, Gold medallist, women’s doubles luge (German Language).
“We have such a great team, staff, coaches, good athlete team, we all work together, and that we all together have achieved such a great result is marvellous.”

01:46 Various shots from the medal ceremony

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