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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Lift off for Canada's Rocket Man Andrew Longino as Elton John inspires him to gold in men's freeski halfpipe at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Leysin Park and Pipe, Switzerland

DATE: January 21, 2020

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

A series of consistently impressive runs brought Andrew Longino of Canada gold in the men's freeski halfpipe at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020.

17-year-old Longino swapped his usual pre-event rap music playlist to the Elton John song Rocket Man after watching the film of the same name about the singer on his flight to Switzerland.

And Longino proved to be a Rocket Man - winning easily after posting a best score on the 160 metres-long course at Leysin Park and Pipe of 94.00. The silver medallist Hunter Carey from the United States posted 86.00 for his best score.

Bronze went to New Zealand's Luca Harrington with a best score of 80.66.

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 Various shots of Andrew Longino, Canada, on his gold medal winning run

00:35 Andrew Longino receives winning score

00:41 Andrew Longino on podium at mascot ceremony

00:56 All three medallists on mascot ceremony podium

01:01 **SOUNDBITE: Andrew Longino, Canada. Gold Medallist, Men's Freeski Halfpipe (English Language).**

"After the first couple of runs I knew I was going to be finishing pretty well. Luca Harrington and Hunter Carey are super strong skiers and it just matters on what runs they put down, so I knew they could take me over and I was just riding, having fun, doing my thing - the result is the result and I'm super happy."

01:27 Action Andrew Longino on winning run

01:33 **SOUNDBITE: Andrew Longino, Canada. Gold Medallist, Men's Freeski Halfpipe (English Language).**

"I'm really happy obviously. To have gold, that's a huge bonus. To come out here and get the opportunity to win a medal and represent my country I'm just over the moon and super happy. "

01:47 Action Andrew Longino on winning run

01:53 **SOUNDBITE: Andrew Longino, Canada. Gold Medallist, Men's Freeski Halfpipe (English Language).**

"I was a little bit tired. I took a little slam in the slope event yesterday and my hip is hurting a bit, but you know, I got some music, got some food in me, felt good. It's a beautiful day so that helps a lot."

02:08 Shots from the medal ceremony of the men's freeski halfpipe

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