STORY HEADLINE: USA finally strike gold at Winter Youth Olympic Games as they dominate men’s slopestyle events at Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Leysin Park and Pipe, Switzerland
DATE: January 20, 2020
LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Leysin Park and Pipe’s Slopestyle course turned into a golden run for the United States, who are finally celebrating topping the podium at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020.

After ten days of missing out on gold, two came along within a matter of minutes of each other at the stunning venue in the Swiss Alps.

Kiernan Fagan won men’s freeski slopestyle just two days after his 18th birthday and shortly afterwards Dusty Henricksen took gold in the men’s snowboard slopestyle on the same course.

Fagan’s second run score of 90.66 was enough for him to hold on for gold - although he was made to sweat by the penultimate athlete to go. Sweden’s Melvin Moren was second last on the course and after a long wait, was given the score of 89.33.

Fagan’s USA teammate Hunter Henderson took bronze with his score of 88.66 from his second run of the day.

Fagan, who is originally from Brownfield in Maine, is part of the Wy East Mountain Academy in Oregon. Henderson, 17, hails from Madbury, New Hampshire.

It was a lot easier for Henricksen in the snowboard slopestyle. The 16-year-old from Mammoth Lakes in California won with relative ease, posting 96.33 as his best score, 11 points clear of Liam Brearley of Canada, who took silver. Bronze went to Switzerland’s Nick Puento with a score of 66.33.
The slopestyle competition is a judged event. It is held on a course with a variety of hits, jumps, rails, tables, big-airs, etc. with two or more lines that the competitors may choose to perform.

The results are calculated on the best out of three runs in the final. Athletes are judged on a combination of amplitude, technical difficulty, creativity and landing.

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:

MEN’S FREESKI SLOPESTYLE
00:05 Kiernan Fagan’s second run, which secured him the gold medal
00:45 Various shots of Hunter Henderson’s second run, which secured him bronze
01:02 All three medallists together at the end of competition with USA flag
01:13 All three medallists at the mascot ceremony

01:30 SOUNDbite: Kiernan Fagan (USA). Gold Medallist, Men’s Freeski Slopestyle (English Language).
“[I was just super] hyped to put my runs down, and to have Hunter Henderson in third place just behind me from the US was super sick and everyone here just crushing, so I was just super hyped to land my run and come in first.”

01:42 Kiernan Fagan performing

01:50 SOUNDbite: Kiernan Fagan (USA). Gold Medallist, Men’s Freeski Slopestyle (English Language).
“After my first run I put down a pretty good run and I believed I went on the first place after that, so I was pretty stoked and then I just put down my second a bit cleaner and it helped through the rest of the competition.”

02:04 Kiernan Fagan performing

02:08 SOUNDbite: Kiernan Fagan (USA). Gold Medallist, Men’s Freeski Slopestyle (English Language).
“It definitely takes a good mental attitude. You just got to be super positive and just excited to be out here and just have your eye on the prize.”
02:18 Shots from the medal ceremony from the men’s freeski slopestyle

**MEN’S SNOWBOARD SLOPESTYLE**

03:21 Dusty Henricksen’s second run
03:56 Dusty Henricksen holding US flag
04:04 Dusty Henricksen on podium during mascot ceremony
04:12 All three medallists on the podium

04:16 **SOUNDBITE:** Dusty Henricksen (USA). Gold Medallist, Men’s Snowboard Slopestyle (English Language).

“It’s like nothing I’ve ever felt in my entire life. Nothing else can give me that feeling, it’s insane.”

04:22 Slow motion shots of Dusty Henricksen performing

04:29 **SOUNDBITE:** Dusty Henricksen (USA). Gold Medallist, Men’s Snowboard Slopestyle (English Language).

“I didn’t really know what was going on, I didn’t know if I should keep it safe and just do a normal run because I got a pretty decent score in the first run but I felt like I could easily be beaten by that last kid and everyone is out here just ripping so, I tried to do a little better.”

04:43 Slow motion shots of Dusty Henricksen performing

04:49 **SOUNDBITE:** Dusty Henricksen (USA). Gold Medallist, Men’s Snowboard Slopestyle (English Language).

“I don’t know, I try and just keep it super mellow, cruising vibes through the whole comp and just try and treat everyday the same you know. I’m just riding my snowboard!”

04:57 Shots from the medal ceremony of the men’s snowboard slopestyle

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