STORY HEADLINE: UK-based Cameroonian refugee Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet II selected for weightlifting in IOC Refugee Olympic Team for Tokyo 2020

DATE: 8 June 2021
LOCATION: Hendon, United Kingdom
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Cameroon
LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:
Weightlifter Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet II has fulfilled his dream of being picked for the IOC Refugee Olympic Team to compete in the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Cyrille settled in the UK after being forced to flee Cameroon. Alongside studying for a Masters Degree at Middlesex University and training to become a mental health nurse, he’s been pumping iron at the university weightlifting club.

“He is very humble, and actually quite shy so he can get nervous before competitions” says Shyam Chavda, university head weightlifting coach. “But he handles pressure extremely well, and he has a very high expectation of himself. As an individual he is really good with other people.”

The athlete has much to be proud of, having won multiple medals at UK weightlifting competitions including gold medals at both the 2017 & 2018 English Championships. Now Cyrille, one of 56 athletes supported by the IOC through the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for Refugee Athletes programme, will become an Olympian.

He says he is “proud to represent the 79 and half million displaced people around the world at the Tokyo Olympics.”

The 29-member IOC Refugee Olympic team (EOR)* initiative at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 is a continuation of the IOC’s commitment to play its part in addressing the global refugee crisis, and another opportunity to continue to convey the message of solidarity and hope to millions of refugees and internally displaced athletes around the world.

*The IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in Tokyo under the French acronym EOR which stands for Equipe Olympique des Réfugiés.

SHOTLIST:
00:02 Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet puts tape on his arms.
00:10 Shot of Cyrille lifting.
00:19 SOUNDBITE: Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet II, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Weightlifting (English Language).

Q. How does it feel to be considered as one of the Refugee Olympic athletes?
I'm proud to be able to represent the 68.5 million people who are displaced around the world. And as a sportsperson it's also an honour, because the Olympic games is kind of the highest sports event. It's a dream to compete at the Olympics as well.’

00:38 Shot of Cyrille exercising his hands.
00:43 Shot of Cyrille’s feet.
00:46 Shot from weight of Cyrille as he lifts.
00:51 Cyrille drops weights
00:56 Close up of Cyrille lifting.

01:06 SOUNDBITE: Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet II, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Weightlifting (English Language).

Q. What was it that made you want to do that as a profession?
‘So I would say maybe my experience, because I experienced kind of depression when I was waiting for my asylum application to be considered. I used to visit my GP and some nurses in the surgery, who actually helped me quite a lot. So when I got granted leave to remain here, I kind of wanted to give back to the community as well.

01:33 Cyrille washing hands at nursing job.
01:38 Cyrille walks towards bed with simulation patient.
01:43 Cyrille working on stimulation patient.
01:58 Cyrille testing blood pressure on simulation patient.

01:53 SOUNDBITE: Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet II, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Weightlifting (English Language).

Q. What do you like best about being in the UK?
‘The things that I like best in the UK is freedom of speech, freedom of movement, and the opportunities available here. So you can become who you want… who you want to become. You can achieve quite a lot. And there is great support.’

02:12 Cyrille checking eyes and mouth of simulation patient.

02:21 SOUNDBITE: Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet II, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Weightlifting (English Language).

Q. How do you think sport can help refugees?
‘Waiting for my refugee status to be considered, I think that taking part in sports, taking part in weightlifting, has kind of helped me quite a lot. Just time to… just to have a bit of time to think, I mean, to stop thinking basically.’

02:38 Cyrille lifting weight. Dialogue: Cyrille: “You can do it!” and “Go for it!”
02:54 Cyrille walks outside and camera pans to Middlesex University sign

-- ENDS --

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