



16-year-old Japanese snowboarder Hiroto Ogiwara was the first person who landed a backside 2160. It is when you turn on your snowboard for six full **rotations**.

It happened at The Nines, a **freestyle** skiing and snowboarding event for the world's top athletes, which took place in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. The event took six days, and Ogiwara did the trick just before it ended.

First, he planned to try a backside 1800. He did well, so he decided to try a backside 2160. Ogiwara's sixth **attempt** was successful.

Another Japanese snowboarder named Reira Iwabuchi became the first woman to do a frontside triple 1260, or three and a half rotations.

**Difficult words:** **rotation** (a turn around a center), **freestyle** (a sport or race without any or with only a few rules), **attempt** (a try to do something).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *rotation, freestyle and attempt*
2. What does backside 2160 mean?
3. Who was the first person in the world to land a backside 2160?
4. In which event did the first backside 2160 happen and where did it take place?
5. After how many attempts did he succeed to land a backside 2160?
6. What did another Japanese snowboarder, Reira Iwabuchi, succeed in doing at the same event?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Are you familiar with The Nines? What do you know about this sporting event?
2. Does your country join this sporting event annually?
3. So far, how many athletes have brought honor to your country from The Nines?
4. How does your government encourage athletes to join in international sporting events?