



*Kiszli won both her K1 races.*



*Pedersen won senior and U23 titles.*



*Katona was over a minute clear in U23.*

junior men's K1, one of five races on Thursday where one country filled the top two places, underlining the importance of racing together in marathon events.

The addition of the 3.6 kilometre short races to the world championship programme proved popular with Kiszli and Babak both making the transition with ease. Kiszli said she was unsure how the race would unfold.

'It was so quick; we started and then we were on the last lap,' Kiszli said.

'I didn't know if I would be any good because I knew the other girls were very fast so I just focused on me and did my race.

'It was a good warm up for me ahead of this weekend. I'm a little bit nervous because I am the world champion so everyone wants to beat me.'

Carre showed the benefit of a big season of canoe sprint racing with a solid win in the men's K1 short race, edging out team mate Jeremy Candy for the gold.

'For training for the 1,000 it is similar to this format so it is not a problem,' Carre said.

'For the 1,000 I need a lot of training but I'm not afraid about that.'

Diego Romero and Manuel Campos finished 1st and 2nd for Spain in the C1 men's short race final. Eszter Rendessy and Zsoka Csikos finished first and second in the women's junior K1 while Benedek Horvath and Kristof Kollar took the top two spots in the men's junior C1.

Thomsen and Knudsen said working together as a team gives a country a great chance.

'It's a dream come true; it's just perfect,' Thomsen said.

'We decided we were going to give it our all together; we knew we were strong so it gave us a definite advantage.

'It's really narrow in places so a lot of one-one-one racing so it was a very hard race.'

Hungary's thirst for gold medals continued unabated and Denmark's Mads Pedersen was on the cusp of making world championship history after a thrilling day two of competition.

Pedersen made canoe marathon history earlier this year when he won both the U23 and senior European K1 titles within the space of 24 hours. On Friday he took the first step towards becoming the first to win both titles at a world championship level, cruising to U23 gold.

'I'm super happy to be able to do what I'm good at and to be successful is just amazing,' Pedersen said.

'We'll see how fresh I am tomorrow but I am keen to get out there and race again. We'll see how much energy I have.'

Pedersen and team mate Thorbjorn Rask cleared out from the rest of the field during the first lap of the 25.9 kilometre race and the pair had the race to themselves.

Once again it was the Hungarians who dominated, adding to the three golds on the opening day with another quartet of titles on Friday.

One of the most convincing wins came from U23 K1 paddler Lili Katona, who finished more than one minute ahead of Norway's Anna Sletsjoee.

Nobody was more surprised than Katona, who missed three months of training over the European winter with an injured shoulder.

'It was my dream to be a world champion and now my dream is true; it's amazing,' Katona said.

'It was hard because I had a problem with my shoulder so I didn't know if I could do it. It was a surprise for me.'

One of the tightest finishes of the day came in the men's junior K2 with Hungary's Zsombor Ory and Tamas Erdelyi outsprinting South Africa's David Evans and Hamish Mackenzie to take the gold by slightly more than one second. It was a third minor medal for the South Africans.

'It was a very hard race but we felt confident we could be strong at the finish,' Ory said.

'We are also very good friends and have been paddling together for two years so that helps a lot. South Africa and Denmark are both very strong so we don't know how we won this race.'

France's Clemence LeBlanc could not have been more impressive in the first ever junior C1 world championship final, withstanding a spirited challenge from Hungary's Csenge Molnar.

'It was a very hard race; the Hungarian is very good,' LeBlanc said.

'I did not feel confident. The start was very hard because I was second so I had to work hard.'

Benedek Horvath followed up his gold medal from the men's junior C1 on Thursday with Hungarian gold in the men's junior C2 alongside Oliver Nagy.

It was a hard fought race with the Hungarians having to see off a determined effort from the Chinese crew of Zihang Wang and Jiadong Zhu which even saw the two boats collide.

'The Chinese boys tried to cut the angle but we did not stop,' Nagy said.

'The race was pretty hard; we didn't expect the Chinese boat to be so strong. I think in the last three kilometres we felt like our technique and our pace was good enough to win.'

It was also a second gold medal for Eszter Rendessy, following her K1 junior gold medal from the opening day with a K2 gold alongside Emese Kohalmi.

'We felt very good; it was our plan to go out hard,' Rendessy said.

'We were able to train with the senior team in Hungary. We just pushed from the start but did not feel confident we could win until the finish.'

Ukraine's Denys Davydov followed up his European U23 C1 title with a close win in Friday's final, finishing just 2 seconds ahead of Poland's Mateusz Borgiel.

Mads Pedersen made canoe marathon history on Saturday, becoming the first ever to win both a U23 and a senior world title at the same championships.

The 22 year old Pedersen stunned the big Chinese crowd by repeating his performance from 24 hours earlier to chisel his name into the record books, this time beating the best paddlers in the world.

Manuel Campos won his fourth men's C1 title, Liudmyla Babak her third women's C1 and Vanda Kiszli successfully defended her women's K1 crown.

Earlier this year Pedersen won both the U23 and senior European canoe marathon titles in the space of 24 hours but few thought it possible to do it against the best of the world.

The title was not decided until the final 20 metres with Pedersen outsprinting a pack of four that included defending world champion Andy Birkett and three time minor medallist Jose Ramalho of Portugal.

'I can't believe this came true,' he said.

'I went out there and wanted to give it my best shot but halfway through the race I was starting to feel very tired so I just tried to ride some good washes.

'In the end I had some energy so I just spent it. When I woke up this morning I did a little paddle to loosen up and after I told my coach that today I felt very good so I believed in it from the start.'

Vanda Kiszli refuses to accept any comparisons with Hungarian canoe marathon legend Renata Csay but on Saturday confirmed herself as the next big name in female K1 paddling with a successful defence of her world championship title.

The 25 year old outsprinted her team mate and training partner Zsafia Czellai-Voros to snatch the K1 gold with Great Britain's Lizzie Broughton taking the bronze. Kiszli said it was much harder defending her world title than winning her first one.

'I think every girl wants to beat me and in my head I am the world champion so I have to work harder and need to dominate or be there at the front so I think it is harder,' she said.

'I felt in control because I knew that Zsafia is very strong and I