



Horvath and Kollar lead in junior C1.



Csay/Czellai-Voros with a historic result.



Urban/Candy had France's first ever K2 win.

ICF photographs

wanted to be there with her. I knew if I could be with her I could be top three so that was my tactic.

'I knew the other girls had been doing sprints this year so I knew they were fast but I knew this was 26 kilometres and I hoped that I was stronger than them and better at 26.'

Manuel Campos doesn't know how much longer he'll keep competing at marathons but while he keeps winning world championships he can see no reason to stop.

The 34 year old Campos on Saturday locked away his fourth C1 world title, outlasting Czech Jakub Brezina and Russian Kirill Shamshurin to defend the title he won back last year.

The Spaniard has now moved alongside Hungarian canoe legend Marton Kover as a four time world champion. Only Hungary's Edvin Csabai with his five consecutive gold medals from 2005 until 2009 has been more successful.

'I think only of tomorrow, of the next race that I do,' Campos said.

'It keeps me calm and happy. I don't know how much longer I will keep going but I am not thinking of finishing. I prove every year I can still be strong but when I don't enjoy it anymore that is when I will finish.

'I love paddling. It is my life.'

Liudmyla Babak admits sitting out the front of a women's C1 canoe marathon field can sometimes be a bit boring but she still plans to dominate the sport for at least another decade.

The 22 year old on Saturday notched up her third consecutive C1 world championship title, adding it to her short course title from Thursday. She is the dominant paddler in the women's canoe discipline, a pocket rocket who seems to get better every year.

'The addition of the short event has made it more difficult for me to change between the two so that is a challenge,' Babak said.

'To be honest, with the long distance sometimes it is a bit boring but women's canoeing is improving because now the number of women competing has almost doubled in recent years and that is a good sign.'

Marathon legend Renata Csay won an incredible 20th world championship gold medal on a historic final day of competition Sunday.

France won its first men's K2 title and Manuel Campos won his first ever C2 as the first marathon world championships to be held in China came to a close.

The star of the final day was undoubtedly Renata Csay. Now 20 years after she won her first world championship the 42 year old picked up her 20th by piloting 24 year old Zsafia Czellai-Voros to a successful defence of their K2 title from 2018.

For Csay it was her 13th K2 medal and she's already planning to return next year to chase down world title number 21.

'I'm so thankful that I can still be here,' Csay said.

'I don't know how I keep doing it. I just like paddling. I will come back next year.'

Czellai-Voros said it was an honour to be part of such a significant milestone for her childhood hero.

'I'm so happy that she won her 20th with me because I remember in 2007 the championship was in Gyor and she was there. I was running back to get her boat because I was a volunteer then and I had to get her boat to boat control.

'I was so happy then. I did not think in my dreams that I would be paddling with her.'

France's Jeremy Candy and Quentin Urban won their country's first ever men's K2, the culmination of several years training together with the goal of becoming world champions.

'We are very happy to be European champions, world champions and France's first K2 gold medallists,' Urban said.

The French had to see off a challenge from Hungary's Adrian Boros and Kristzian Mathe and Argentine brothers Franco and Dardo Balboa but Candy said coming into the last portage he felt they could make history.

'We hadn't had any trouble during the race so I thought if we came first into the portage it would be a good chance for us to win,' he said.

'We've been training for four years now in marathon; we left sprint because we really wanted to reach this position at least once. Now it's done. Of course we will be back.'

It was an emotional men's C2 gold for Spain's Manuel Campos and Diego Romero when they outlasted Poland's Mateusz Zuchora and Wikto Glazunow after a gruelling 25.9 kilometres.

It was a first C2 gold for Campos after five minor medals while Romero paid tribute to his grandmother, who passed away on the eve of the race. It was also a successful defence of the C2 gold he won alongside Oscar Grana in 2018.

'I'm very happy to win the gold again and especially because yesterday my grandmother died so it is very special for me,' Romero said.

'I just tried to stay focused on the competition and put all the pressure behind me. There is nothing I could do so I just tried to do my best.'

The gold was a major breakthrough for Romero, a four time C1 world champion who had never won in C2 before.

'This is a very special medal for me because it's my 20th world championship medal,' Campos said.

'Since 2011 I have been doing C2 and I have some bronze and silver medals but I have not been able to win a gold so this is very important for me.'

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K1WSh: 1 V Kiszli, Magyarország, 15:50.29. 2 K Bedec, Srbija, 15:41.38.

3 E Barrios, España, 15:45.44. 18 L Broughton, GB, 18:35.91.

K1MSh: 1 C Carre, France, 14:20.51. 2 J Candy, France, 14:21.51.

3 F Balboa, Argentina, 14:27.35. 7 T Pendle, GB, 14:45.43.

K1WJ: 1 E Rendessy, Magyarország, 1:28:05.67. 2 Z Csikos, Magyarország, 1:28:26.80.

3 C Toledo, España, 1:31:14.79.

K1W: 1 V Kiszli, Magyarország, 2:03:06.75. 2 Z Czellai-Voros, Magyarország, 2:03:13.76.

3 L Broughton, GB, 2:03:17.26.

K1MJ: 1 N Thomsen, Danmark, 1:39:01.45. 2 P Knudsen, Danmark, 1:39:07.04.

3 V Petro, Magyarország, 1:39:16.88. 16 T Dowden, GB, 1:45:43.28.

K1MU23: 1 M Pedersen, Danmark, 1:51:49.46. 2 T Rask, Danmark, 1:52:26.46. 3 M Gyorgjakab, Magyarország, 1:54:01.11. 5 J Russell, GB, 1:54:14.73. 7 C Smith, GB, 1:56:09.80.

K1M: 1 M Pedersen, Danmark, 2:08:34.21. 2 J Ramalho, Portugal, 2:08:35.53.

3 F Balboa, Argentina, 2:08:36.51. 20 T Pendle, GB, 2:18:51.48.

K2MJ: 1 Ory/Erdleyi, Magyarország, 1:32:30. 2 Evans/Mackenzie, S Africa, 1:32:30.97.

3 Knudsen/Thomsen, Danmark, 1:32:38.22. 9 Martyn/Bicknell, GB, 1:36:32.47.

Racing for youngsters

Marathon racing has relied over recent years on races for boys and girls in under 10 and under 12 age categories. The thought now is for races to be based on ability rather than age and gender. There is also a wish to move away from Lightnings as a one design class, allowing in other boats including standard K1s which are thought to develop better paddling technique.

Major event proposal

The Marathon Racing Committee are hoping to run a major international marathon event in the UK in 2022 or 2023. This implies at least a World Cup or European championships. The first world championships were run at Nottingham in 1989 with Stockton-on-Tees used in 2001 for the 9th world championships.

New Alabama marathon

The Great Alabama 650 has been established as a paddle only race second only to the Yukon 1000. The race is from the Appalachian foothills to Mobile Bay in the Gulf of Mexico. Features of the race include 11 dam portages, headwinds, white water and alligators.