



The Czech Nemcova in C1.



Urankar in men's kayak.



Lapointe won the C1.



Dupras take the women's K1.

ICF photographs

'I was a little bit nervous at the beginning,' Rosa said. 'The course is not the hardest; there is some movement of the water that is very difficult to move through quickly but I love it. 'I hope I can go even faster in the final but I'm very happy for today.'

Louis Lapointe had a best result of 8th at his last three world championship starts in the men's C1 but showed on Thursday that this could be his year by qualifying quickest for this weekend's final.

Lapointe finished ahead of the Czech Republic's Vladimir Slanina and Germany's Normen Weber.

'I think it was a good time and I think I can go faster in the final on Saturday,' Lapointe said.

'I just need to do no mistakes. I think for the final everyone can win at this venue so Saturday would be a great battle.'

Triple Olympic gold medallists Pavol and Peter Hochschorner showed they are successfully adapting to the wild water canoeing discipline by qualifying fastest in the men's C2 on Friday.

The Slovakian twin brothers finished 0.45 second ahead of reigning world champions Stephane Santamaria and Quentin Dazeur with Louis Lapointe and Tony Debray third quickest.

The field also included the 2016 C2 Olympic gold medallists Slovakian cousins Ladislav and Peter Skantar. The Skantars were unable to progress to the final.

The Hochschorners won C2 Olympic gold in 2000, 2004 and 2008 and said it was nice to be back in the same boat at a major international event.

'It was a good run for us because we had made some big mistakes during training so this was our first good run this week,' Pavol Hochschorner said.

'It's been a long time since we have sat together in a white water boat so it's been very interesting. It's been hard changing a slalom boat for this one.'

'This was a good run. If we can make another one like this one it will be good in the final.'

'The biggest challenge is for us to try and stay straight and don't do mistakes,' Peter Hochschorner said.

'It's a very close field, so many boats within one second, so that is more important.'

In the women's C2 Elsa Gaubert and Margot Beziat qualified quickest, ahead of the Czech pairing of Marie Nemcova and Tereza Kneblova. Italians Marlene Ricciardi and Cecilia Panato finished third.

'It was a good run but it was only qualification so tomorrow it is the big race,' Gaubert said.

'We are very motivated and will give the best we can so we will see.'

'We only paddled together for the first time last year and this year we have only trained together two times,' Beziat said.

'The course is really different for C2 than C1; it's a new experience but we really enjoy doing this together.'

France picked up four gold medals and Nejc Znidarcic won a fourth individual world title on the final day of competition.

The French had a day out, picking up the women's kayak, men's canoe and men's and women's C2 world titles while Martina Satkova won the women's canoe title.

Louis Lapointe picked up double gold, winning the men's C1 and teaming up with Tony Debray to take the men's C2 title.

'Today I did a perfect run and I'm proud to have done a run like this in the final where there is a lot of pressure,' Lapointe said after his C1 win.

'To become a world champion is a dream for me that has now come true. We do a lot of training and a lot of racing here. I've done a lot of training and a lot of work to do a run like this so I'm proud of it.'

Czech Ondrej Rolenc, looking for a fourth C1 world title, was 0.44 second behind while Vladimir Slanina was 3rd.

It was a similar margin in the men's C2 where Lapointe and Debray finished 0.41 second ahead of the Czech Marek Rygel and Petr Vesely with Stephane Santamaria and Quentin Dazeur 3rd.

'My first run in the C1 was not my best so, after the run, I spoke with Louis because he had won the gold,' Debray said.

'He had been good on this course so we spoke about that and we found a good line which was very important. Being together in a C2 is very different to being in a C1.'

Nejc Znidarcic added to his already stellar men's K1 career with another world title, his fourth, but taking the gold with just 0.01 of a second to spare.

The unlucky paddler was France's Felix Bouvet, competing in his first senior world championship final, while another Frenchman, Hugues Moret, finished 3rd.

'It's amazing. I've had the perfect season,' the 35 year old Slovenian said.

'I won the Europeans and the World Cups and for sure this was the goal to win once again here. I made it but just barely.'

'I think I've won everything that's possible but I find motivation in my team mates because they are all world champions and European champions. If it weren't for them I don't think I would be so fast.'

One of the happiest winners on Saturday was France's Phenicia Dupras, who won her first ever women's K1 final. She beat Anezka Paloudova and Barbora Dimovova.

'I've been waiting for this for maybe three years,' Dupras said.

'In Pau in 2017 I was really focused and hoping for a good result but it didn't come so I've been searching for this medal.'

'I wasn't worried about the others. I was focusing on myself. I knew I could do a good run with great speed. It's been a lot of work and to share this with all the French paddling community is very special.'

Martina Satkova was one of the favourites for the women's K1 but ran into trouble during her run and eventually finished 14th but the Czech paddler bounced back less than one hour later to take the women's C1.

'Today was a really mixed day, one really bad run and now a gold run. I'm super happy,' Satkova said.

'I think it has been four years since I was world champion, I'm so happy to be back.'

'After the K1 I just tried to avoid people saying they felt sorry for me and concentrated on cheering on the Czech team. I just told myself it was my last run for the day so I needed to do my best and I did it.'

'All the work I did, I'm so happy I did it and I will continue to do it.'

Defending world champion Cecilia Panato finished 2nd and Elsa Gaubert took the bronze.

Gaubert did not have to wait long, though, to taste success, teaming up with Margot Beziat to win the women's C2.

'This is our first time of being world champions and we have won it together,' Gaubert said.

'We train a lot in C1 but this is not two C1s in a C2; this is two girls in a C2 and we are 100 per cent together. That has helped us win today.'

'We have a lot of emotion but we are friends and we think that helps us,' Beziat said.

Marlene Ricciardi and Cecilia Panato took the silver and Germany's Maren Lutz and Sabrina Barm took the bronze.

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- K1W:** 1 P Dupras, France, 1:00.49. 2 A Paloudova, Ceska, 1:00.54. 3 B Dimovova, Ceska, 1:00.78. 4 H Brown, GB, 1:01.20. 15 V Murray, GB, 1:06.71.
- K1M:** 1 N Znidarcic, Slovenija, 53.93. 2 F Bouvet, France, 53.94. 3 H Moret, France, 54.10. 11 B Oakley, GB, 55.74.
- K1WT:** 1 Ceska, 1:04.60. 2 France, 1:05.38. 3 Deutschland, 1:06.38. 5 GB, 1:09.61.
- K1MT:** 1 Slovenija, 58.08. 2 France, 58.48. 3 Ceska, 59.25. 5 GB, 1:01.34.