



Donnelly in surface kayak.



Hargrove wins his first international.



Takaku's first win.

ICF photographs



The night competition is unique within canoeing.

and slalom, creek racing as well and stand up paddle boarding,' Donnelly said.

'I try to do it all but my main focus is slalom because I am going for the 2020 Olympics. I've been doing freestyle since I was seven; it's what I started in so I just put together a series of tricks that I am familiar with.

'I knew I had it in me but I wasn't fully expecting to get it here. I'm just happy to have pulled it out so I just hope I can continue. It's definitely a good start to the competition.'

It was Donnelly's first senior world championships. The 18 year old was the reigning junior world champion from Argentina in 2017.

A teenager competing at his first international event and a defending world champion took the honours on the penultimate day of competition on Friday.

Two years after causing a major boilover at the 2017 world championships Great Britain's Otilie Robinson-Shaw proved once again she is the best junior female paddler on the planet with a convincing gold medal performance in Sort.

'I think I had more confidence in myself and I think that's what I lacked in Argentina,' Robinson-Shaw said.

'I didn't think I could do it until the last night and then it happened but until that moment, when I believed, it wasn't going to happen.'

The 17 year old Robinson-Shaw recorded 536.67 on her first ride in the final with USA's Olivia McGinnis taking the silver with 340. Another American, Katie Fankhouser, took the bronze with 336.67.

Mason Hargrove did not know what to expect when he arrived in Sort for his first ever international competition but he showed he belongs with the best with a commanding gold medal performance in the men's junior final.

The 16 year old Hargrove, who grew up wanting to be like three time world champion Dane Jackson, posted a massive 960 points on his first ride, a score that proved enough for the title.

'I'm so stoked. I just came out here to have fun and I got the win,' Hargrove said.

'I was a little kid watching the sport, watching Dane throw down big rides, and I knew I wanted to do that one day. With a bunch of hard work I got here. I'm so happy to have got the win.

'It's definitely nervewracking but I'm just so happy for my friends, even if they had beaten me.

Fellow American Dally Kellogg took the silver with 810 points while Jack Newland won Australia's first ever junior freestyle medal, finishing 3rd with 660 points.

Japan's Hitomi Takaku broke through for her first world title and

Dane Jackson regained the crown he lost two years ago on a dramatic final night under lights.

A capacity crowd lined the banks of the purpose built freestyle venue and watched as first Takaku and then Jackson showcased some of the most exciting moves in the sport to clinch gold.

Two years earlier in San Juan Takaku finished 3rd and Jackson had to settle for silver but the pair were leaving nothing to chance on Saturday night.

Takaku threw down a score of 646.67 on her second of three rides, which turned out to be more than enough to clinch the title.

'I'm so excited, so happy; this is the best day of my life,' Takaku said.

'It was so hard under the lights because not always my moves were working but of course tonight will be a party night.'

France's Marlene Devillez took the silver with 570 points, a repeat of her result from Argentina,

while Poland's Zofia Tula improved one place to take the bronze with 553.33 points.

Two years ago Jackson watched as Joaquim Fontane snatched away his world crown with a massive final round ride. On Saturday Fontane was not able to repeat the heroics in front of his noisy home crowd, having to settle for silver behind the now three time world champion.

'It was a super sick final; all these guys were paddling so well and it's always such a challenge because, in three rides, anything can happen,' Jackson said.

'Until I saw the old videos it didn't really hit me that my dad had won here 18 years ago and now I get to win in the exact same place, the same arena.

'I'm so fired up. I just hoped this year for a good time, to hang out with good friends all over the world, but to be able to come out on top feels good.'

Jackson sealed the gold with his first ride of the night, picking up 1,406.67 points which could not be topped. Fontane took silver with 1,260 points while Sebastien Devred repeated his result of two years earlier to take silver with 1,211.67 points.

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- K1WJ:** 1 O Robinson-Shaw, GB, 536.67. 2 O McGinnis, USA, 340.00.
 3 K Fankhouser, USA, 336.67. 11 J Leal, GB. 13 A Goddard, GB. 16 M Cross, GB.
K1MJ: 1 M Hargrove, USA, 960.00. 2 D Kellogg, USA, 810.00. 3 J Newland, Australia, 660.00.
 11 T Marlow, GB, 533.33. 13 A Gurung, GB.
K1W: 1 H Takaku, Nippon, 646.67. 2 M Devillez, France, 570.00. 3 Z Tula, Polska, 553.33.
 7 C O'Hara, GB. 8 I Crosbie, GB. 12 E Witherford, GB. 14 L Davies, GB.
K1M: 1 D Jackson, USA, 1,406.67. 2 J Fontane I Maso, España, 1,260.00. 3 S Devred, France, 1,211.67. 6 J Bebbington, GB. 8 G Barker, GB. 9 R Crowe, GB. 12 A Ward, GB. 17 H Price, GB.
OC: 1 J Poffenberger, USA, 173.33. 2 J Moustrou, France, 153.33. 3 P Josef, Deutschland, 126.67.
 8 A Ramadan, GB.
DC: 1 T Dolle, France, 960.00. 2 D Jackson, USA, 950.00. 3 J Poffenberger, USA, 943.33.
 10 M Stephenson, GB. 14 J Ibbotson, GB. 17 A Ramadan, GB.
K1WSq: 1 R Wall, USA, 1,493.33. 2 H Takaku, Nippon, 1,080.00.
 3 O Robinson-Shaw, GB, 780.00. 8 I Crosbie, GB. 10 T McConchie, GB.
K1MSq: 1 C Wright, USA, 1,500.00. 2 A Edwards, GB, 1,066.67. 3 S Wilson, GB, 943.33.
 4 D Rogers, GB, 940.67.

Worlds in Nottingham

Referring back to the May editorial, I am pleased to note that the 2021 world freestyle championships are to be held in Nottingham. This should produce an event with all the world's top competitors present and remove any question of event status.