

# Heath sees off Beaumont again

## Duisburg Regatta

Five years after becoming canoe sprint K1 1,000 world champion, Josef Dostal finally climbed to the top of the podium again, beating a star studded field at the World Cup in Duisburg, Germany.

In his wake the giant Czech left Olympic bronze medallist Roman Anoshkin of Russia, Portugal's world champion Fernando Pimenta, and Hungarian speedster Balint Kopasz.

'Pimenta has been at the top for so long and I wanted to bring him down,' Dostal said.

'For me this was the main test before the world championships. I didn't do very well last week in Poznan and my coach told me I had to try harder.'

Dostal's win was one of two major upsets on the Saturday. In the men's C1 1,000 Frenchman Adrien Bart in lane 9 saw off the two time Olympic champion Sebastian Brendel of Germany and Brazilian workhorse and Rio silver medallist Isaquias Dos Santos.

'Last week in Poznan the Cuban guys showed me it is possible to beat these guys,' Bart said.

'They showed me the way and I said "Okay, I can do that, too." We will see the consequence of this win later but for now I am really happy. The more I race the more comfortable I feel.'

Also climbing back to the top of the podium after a long break was Denmark's Emma Jorgensen, who triumphed in the women's K1 200 in the absence of New Zealand's two time Olympic champion, Lisa Carrington.

Great Britain's Liam Heath and Canada's Laurence Vincent-Lapointe rarely find themselves anywhere but on the top of the podium and it was the case again on Saturday as Heath saw off Spanish world champion Carlos Garrote in the K1 200 while Vincent-Lapointe again won the women's C1 200.

France's Manon Hostens and Sarah Guyot turned a 4th placing one week earlier in Poland to a gold medal in the K2 500 in Duisburg. The pair are still finding their way as a crew but are quickly establishing themselves as a Tokyo Olympic prospect.

Hungary, France and China produced major shocks on a day of surprise results.

Canada's Laurence Vincent-Lapointe and Katie Vincent suffered a shock defeat in the women's C2 500 and Germany's Max Hoff and Jacob Schopf in the K2 1,000 and Peter Kretschmer and Yul Oeltze in the C2 1,000 were also relegated to 2nd places.

It was left to the German men's and women's K4 500 boats to return the situation to some form of normality with both posting strong victories in front of a big and patient home crowd.

The defeat of the Canadians by Hungary's Virag Balla and Kincso Takacs was perhaps the biggest shock on Sunday. Vincent-Lapointe and Vincent have looked unbeatable for two years but the performance of Balla and Takacs underlines how fast women's canoeing is improving.

'We thought the same; we thought the Canadian girls would win this C2,' Balla said.

'When we saw on the big screen we had won we were so happy. We just pushed and focused on our technique.'

Reigning world champions Kretschmer and Oeltze were expected to win the men's C2 1,000 and, in the process, qualify themselves for the German world championship team ahead of Olympic gold medalists Sebastian Brendel and Jan Vendrey.

They achieved the latter but were unable to take the gold, losing out to an ecstatic Chinese pairing of Hao Liu and Pengfei Zheng.

Likewise Hoff and Schopf were expected to back up their slashing gold medal win in Poznan one week earlier with another win in front of their home crowd. With just a handful of metres to go the win looked theirs until a withering final burst from France's Cyrille Carre and Etienne Hubert, racing together in a major event for the first time, snatched the gold away.

'During the race we just tried to focus on our boat because right next to us was Max Hoff, so we stayed focused on the finish to give it our all,' Hubert said.

'It's very important for us to win here and it is our first international race so now we will have to see for the rest of the year and maybe next year.'

The men's K4 500 final was expected to be a showdown between world champions Germany and silver medalists Spain, returning to racing after sitting out the previous week's opening World Cup but it was no contest with the Germans thrilling their home crowd with an emphatic victory. Slovakia took a surprise silver with Spain fading to 5th.

'We always enjoy the battle with the Spanish guys, our friends, so we were a little bit surprised with how the race was going today,' Rauhe said.

'We tried to post a fast race because the conditions were pretty good so we always battle with the time anyway so we're happy; it is a first step towards the world championships.'

The German women's K4 crew have waited a long time to return to the top of the podium but in the absence of the powerful Hungarian and New Zealand boats on Sunday they made the race their own, tipping out France and Poland for the gold medal.

'We've had to wait so long for this medal and now it's a gold, so it's amazing for us,' Franziska John said.

'This morning we had some doubts but in the race we knew it was going to be a good race and we brought it to the end.'

Poland's Anna Pulawska broke through for her first ever international gold, winning the K1 500 ahead of Denmark's Emma Jorgensen and Belgium's Lize Broekx, who dead heated for 2nd.

'It was a fast and a hard race but I won my first international gold medal so I'm happy,' Pulawska said.

'I didn't think I could win a medal so it's a surprise for me. I'm so happy.'

## ICF

**200m: K1W:** 1 E Jorgensen, Danmark, 40.235. 2 T Portela, Espana, 40.519.

3 L Stensils, Sverige, 40.939. 8 J Walker, GB, 41.243. 16 E Lewis, GB.

**K1M:** 1 L Heath, GB, 34.647. 2 M Beaumont, France, 35.111. 3 A Seja, Lietuva, 35.251.

**C1W:** 1 L Vincent-Lapointe, Canada, 45.996. 2 K Vincent, Canada, 47.180.

3 K Takacs, Magyarország, 47.208. 15 K Reid, GB, 17 A Fitzhenry, GB.

**K2M:** 1 Rizza/Di Liberto, Italia, 31.312. 2 Apogyi/Cszizmadia, Magyarország, 32.010.

3 Zotov/Molochkov, Rossija, 32.113. 5 Thomson/Naftanaila, GB, 32.549.

**500m: K1W:** 1 A Pulawska, Polska, 1:48.283.

2 M Hostens, France, 1:48.851. E Jorgensen, Danmark, 1:48.851. 17 R Simon, GB.

**K1M:** 1 T Liebscher, Deutschland, 1:39.001. 2 B Kopasz, Magyarország, 1:39.416.

3 F Pimenta, Portugal, 1:39.730. 14 D Johnson, GB.

**K2W:** 1 Hostens/Guyot, France, 1:41.279. 2 Ponomarenko Janic/Osterman, Slovenija, 1:41.689.

3 Peters/Broekx, Belgique, 1:42.194.

**K4W:** 1 Deutschland, 1:31.175. 2 France, 1:31.782. 3 Polska, 1:32.350.

**K4M:** 1 Deutschland, 1:18.660. 2 Slovensko, 1:19.352. 3 Rossija, 1:19.493. 16 GB.

**C1W:** 1 V Balla, Magyarország, 2:06.605. 2 S Xu, Zhongguo, 2:07.836.

3 Y Zhang, Zhongguo, 2:12.040. 8 A Fitzhenry, GB, 2:16.479.

**C2W:** 1 Balla/Takacs, Magyarország, 1:51.587. 2 Vincent-Lapointe/Vincent, Canada, 1:51.905.

3 Kurach/Romasenko, Rossija, 1:54.188. 14 Reid/Bracewell, GB.

**1km: K1M:** 1 J Dostal, Ceska, 3:27.206. 2 R Anoshkin, Rossija, 3:27.770.

3 B Kopasz, Magyarország, 3:27.859. 11 T Lusty, GB.

**5km: K1W:** 1 A Burnett, Australia, 21:45.433. 2 A Bull, Australia, 21:46.632.

3 J Egan, Ireland, 21:47.336. 7 L Broughton, GB, 22:06.384.

**K1M:** 1 F Pimenta, Portugal, 19:39.656. 2 M Hoff, Deutschland, 19:40.854.

3 J Lindberg, Sverige, 19:46.831.

**C1W:** 1 L Vincent-Lapointe, Canada, 25:00.822. 2 S Xu, Zhongguo, 25:17.997.

3 M Maillard, Chile, 25:48.155. 12 A Palmer, GB, 28:19.312.



Dostal wins men's K1 over 1km.



Bart's surprise C1 win over 1km.



The German women's K4 crew.