

in good shape for my run. My father is my coach so we talked a lot; he said you just have to go as you do in training.

'I did a lot of work in the past years so it is now paying enough. Both my dad and my mum teach me a lot so I think I am quite lucky.'

It was Italy's first junior K1 gold since 2010. Silver went to France's Martin Cornu and bronze to Hocevar, to add to the C1 gold he won on Friday.

Antonie Galuskova won junior world K1 titles in 2017 and 2019 and was standing on the side of the river on Saturday when her 16 year old sister, Bara, also became a champion.

Galuskova benefited from posting a clean run with both the minor medallists picking up two second penalties which denied them the gold.

'I have no words for this; it's crazy. I could never dream about this,' Bara Galuskova said.

'I was just thinking maybe I could make the finals. I'm so happy I could share this moment with my family and my sister.'

Team mate Klara Kneblova took the silver while C1 junior world champion Paulina Pirro finished with the bronze.

Before Saturday Slovakia had never won a women's U23 C1 world title, taking two bronze and a silver at the past three world championships, but in her farewell appearance at an U23 level Sona Stanovska broke through for the biggest win of her career, laying down a faultless run to finish just over half a second ahead of Tereza Kneblova.

'It's incredible because I was always just second and third and now I finally have a title. It's an amazing feeling. I came to the finish line and I couldn't believe how good my time was,' Stanovska said.

'We had Covid so for the last few years I couldn't race because we could not race as a Slovak team so I missed two or three years. This was my last chance and I made gold. I have no words.'

'Now I have incredible form; even the past three races I was going well but I always had some gate touches which pushed me out of the medal position but now, today, it's finally here.'

Evy Leibfarth followed her gold medal performance in the K1 24 hours earlier by posting the quickest raw time in the C1 final but a gate touch and a two second penalty dropped her to the bronze medal position.

France had won the past three men's U23 C1 world titles going into Saturday and with three in the final, including the defending world champion, the country had a strong chance of continuing its incredible run.

In the end it was Jules Bernardet, competing at his final U23 competition and without ever winning a world title, who took the gold. Even with a gate touch Bernardet finished more than one second clear of Great Britain's Kurts Rozentals.

'This is my last season in U23 so I'm really happy,' Bernardet said.

'It is my last. I have never won so this was really important for me.'

Slovenia's Nejc Polencic finished third. Defending champion Mewen Debliquy posted the quickest raw time but with three gate touches and six seconds in penalties the Frenchman slipped to fifth place.

Klara Kneblova picked up a record third gold medal as the world championships came to an end on Sunday.

Kneblova won the women's junior kayak cross title to add to the C1 and K1 team titles of which she was part on the opening day. Nobody has ever won three gold medals at a junior or U23 world championships.

Team mate Katerina Bekova won her first gold medal since 2017 when she took out the women's U23 kayak cross final while Sam Leaver for Great Britain and Michele Pistoni for Italy won the men's U23 and junior kayak cross respectively.

Kneblova finished the world championships with an incredible three gold, a silver and a bronze, to easily become the most successful competitor at a slalom world championships at any level but she said fatigue nearly got the better of her on the final day.

'It's amazing. I have no words to describe it; it's beautiful and I'm so happy,' Kneblova said.

'Today the racing was really long. I was pretty tired on the start line. I was thinking "Can we go home?" and here I am, happy with how it went.'

Katerina Bekova said she was shocked to win the women's U23 final as she had done very little training before the event.

'I didn't expect this. I had five or six sessions before this so I'm surprised,' Bekova said.

'After the time trial I just tried to push it as hard as I could. That was the plan. In kayak cross I guess there's always a chance to win a medal.'

Great Britain picked up gold and bronze in the men's U23, with Sam Leaver finishing first and Jonny Dickson third.

Leaver said the pair had a plan going into the final.



ICF photographs

Sona Stanovska, under 23 C1 winner.

'I've waited all week for this race at the end and it went as well as it could have done,' Leaver said.

'It felt like ages watching the racing, waiting to take part. Me and Jonny, we both said we would leave each other alone at the first upright, so when I came in and he was nice enough to leave me alone.'

Michele Pistoni is another late comer to the sport of kayak cross but showed he has what it takes by winning the men's junior final.

'This was really unexpected; it's made my day,' Pistoni said.

'In the last years I never gave this race much importance but this year I bought a boat and I started to practise a bit but I still didn't expect to win.'

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K1WJ: 1 B Galuskova, Czechia, 97.98. 2 K Kneblova, Czechia, 98.44.

3 P Pirro, Deutschland, 98.72. 18 Z Blythe-Shields, GB.

K1WU23: 1 E Leibfarth, USA, 90.24. 2 A Galuskova, Czechia, 91.53. 3 C Charel, France, 92.88.

10 E Miller, GB, 99.07. 13 P Spicer, GB. 17 L Leaver, GB.

K1M: 1 X Ferrazzi, Italia, 81.77. 2 M Cornu, France, 82.27. 3 Z Hocevar, Slovenija, 83.31.

14 R Murray, GB.

K1MU23: 1 L Vuitton, France, 81.66. 2 A Delassus, France, 82.07. 3 T Castryck, France, 82.45.

11 D Paterson, GB. 11 E McDonald, GB. 16 B Haylett, GB.

C1WJ: 1 P Pirro, Deutschland, 99.77. 2 C Heydenreich, Deutschland, 102.40.

3 K Kneblova, Czechia, 103.23. 6 Z Blythe-Shields, GB, 105.21. 9 A Kontchakov, GB, 106.45.

C1WU23: 1 S Stanovska, Slovensko, 96.55. 2 T Kneblova, Czechia, 97.12.

3 E Leibfarth, USA, 97.34. 4 P Spicer, GB, 103.52. 8 E Miller, GB, 107.54.

C1M: 1 Z Hocevar, Slovenija, 87.13. 2 M Cornu, France, 90.39.

3 L Kratochvil, Czechia, 92.08. 17 W Kettle, GB.

C1MU23: 1 J Bernardet, France, 89.58. 2 K Rozenthals, GB, 90.68.

3 N Polencic, Slovenija, 91.24. 9 P Linksted, GB, 96.65. 20 J Kettle, GB.

K1XWJ: 1 K Kneblova, Czechia. 2 N Pesce-Roue, France. 3 C Davidson, Australia.

K1XWU23: 1 K Bekova, Czechia. 2 A Hug, France. 3 A Marx, Schweiz.

K1XMJ: 1 M Pistoni, Italia. 2 M Cornu, France. 3 K Long, USA.

K1XMU23: 1 S Leaver, GB. 2 N Collier, NZ. 3 J Dickson, GB.

K1WJ1: 1 Czechia, 100.61. 2 Deutschland, 104.95. 3 Slovenija, 109.26. 4 GB, 116.16.

K1WU23T: 1 GB, 98.55. 2 Czechia, 99.89. 3 Slovenija, 109.26.

K1MJT: 1 Deutschland, 89.00. 2 France, 91.50. 3 Czechia, 93.45. 16 GB, 149.87

K1MU23T: 1 France, 87.09. 2 España, 87.90. 3 Italia, 91.04. 4 GB, 92.53.

C1WT: 1 Czechia, 92.79. 2 Deutschland, 94.38. 3 France, 95.93. 8 GB, 109.50.

C1WU23T: 1 Czechia, 110.69. 2 Slovenija, 116.38. 3 Deutschland, 122.80.

C1MJT: 1 Czechia, 92.79. 2 Deutschland, 94.38. 3 France, 95.93. 8 GB, 109.50.

C1MU23T: 1 France, 88.13. 2 GB, 95.10. 3 Italia, 96.21.