



*Titouan Castryck wins on the Paris course.*



*Cross winner Boris Neveu.*

Burgess was pipped for the overall fastest time by Savsek, his 95.15 seconds just shading the British paddler's 95.18. Slovakia's Alexander Slafkovsky, who was still in the running at 40 years of age to qualify for his first Olympics, posted the third quickest time.

For the French team it was also an important selection event, the perfect time for Camille Prigent to put down the third fastest qualifying time in the women's K1.

'I felt good; it was super nice having all the kids cheering for us. I was really nervous so I'm happy to get this run done,' Prigent said.

'It's super stressful because this is our last race for the Olympic selection for the French team so I want to do well. I hope I can keep paddling like this over the weekend.

'I used to not really like this course but I've paddled here for a few years now and I'm starting to really enjoy it. There were some improvements done on the course so I really like it now. I think it's a bit bigger and more challenging and also it's my home course.'

Australia's Fox, a silver medallist in London in 2012 and bronze medallist from Rio and Tokyo, was one of just two to go under the 100 second mark. Her time of 97.97 just pipped Slovakia's Eliska Mintalova on 98.36.

Jessica Fox wrapped up an incredible fifth consecutive kayak World Cup championship title and Raffaello Ivaldi took his second World Cup gold for the season on the first day of finals on Friday.

The 2023 season finale confirmed the dominance of Australia's Fox, adding a third World Cup gold to the world title she won in the Lee valley a fortnight earlier. A K1 Olympic gold medal is the one major medal that has eluded her, having picked up silver in London and bronze at both Rio and Tokyo.

'It's been an awesome season and a great sign of consistency when you win the overall title,' Fox said.

'I really enjoyed racing here, which is a good sign, I think. It's been a long season; what I learned from Tokyo is you can't have a perfect preparation leading into an Olympics. You have to be adaptable.

'I definitely felt the pressure leading into Tokyo so I'm sure it will be quite similar but it's a privilege and an honour to represent Australia and to have that opportunity on the world stage at the Olympic Games, when so many in our sport don't get that opportunity.'

Austrian veteran Corinna Kuhnle finished second behind Fox to celebrate her first podium since 2019 while Poland's Klaudia Zwolinska followed her bronze at the world championships with another bronze on Friday.

In the men's C1 final an emotional Raffaello Ivaldi won his second World Cup gold for the season with a fault free run to edge out Germany's Franz Anton and Spain's Miquel Trave. Ivaldi spoke afterwards of the battle he had emotionally after a disappointing performance at the previous month's world championships.

'The worlds were really bad; it was a really hard time for me but the support around me was amazing, my dad, my mum, my grandma, my brother, my family and friends. The support was amazing,' Ivaldi said.

'They helped me so much to get back and now I'm back on the top it feels amazing. I felt the energy today. I felt confident. I went all in so I'm happy. I am happy after the worlds. I didn't end with my mind. I came back in a good shape.

'I still had a lot of energy but now I am wasted. I gave everything so now I am just happy to enjoy some holidays.'

Ivaldi's gold medals in La Seu and Paris leapfrogged him to third in the overall World Cup standings with Slovenia's Luka Bozic just pipping Slovakia's Matej Benus by two points for the overall title.

In the women's K1 Fox was a runaway winner from Germany's Elena Lilik and Klaudia Zwolinska.

Jessica Fox further enhanced her reputation as the greatest female slalom paddler of all time and Frenchman Titouan Castryck as a star of the future on the penultimate day of competition.

Just 24 hours after stitching up the women's K1 gold and her fifth consecutive overall World Cup kayak title Fox won the women's C1 and her fifth overall title. It's the third time 29 year old Fox has won both the K1 and C1 overall title in a single season and the eighth time she was won both the K1 and C1 gold at the same event.

Fox put more than four seconds between herself and her nearest opponent, Czech Gabriela Satkova, in the women's C1 final despite battling fatigue at the end of a long season.

'It has definitely been amazing so far, to win again today, take the overall in C1. I'm just so stoked, exhausted, but it's not over,' Fox said.

'It shows I've been consistent throughout the season; there's always some ups and downs at certain World Cups but I've felt good. I've raced well. The standard of women's paddling is always increasing and it's never a given, you know; you always have to show up.

'It's been a near perfect season but there are still things to improve on and things to work on. I've never raced a test event before in the lead up to a Games so this was different; this was new and it was great to get that first look and that first feel on the Paris course.'

Great Britain's reigning world champion, Mallory Franklin, took third place. Team mate Kimberley Woods finished fifth, which was enough to grab second place in the overall season standings. Ukraine's Viktoriia Us finished 11th in Saturday's final, good enough for third in the season's standings.

Teenager Titouan Castryck felt confident at the start of the week that he could win on his home course and on Saturday that confidence was well placed with a storming victory in front of euphoric French fans.

The 19 year old was one of the only paddlers to tame the challenging course, posting an error free run of 89.20. Czech Vit Prindis and Great Britain's Jonny Dickson tied for second place, posting 91.78.

'It was amazing; there was a lot of cheering on the side of the course and I knew I could be good here and I got the run I was hoping for so I'm really happy,' Castryck said.

'I think I was really solid during the early season in the heats and semis but in the finals run I was always struggling to find my paddling. London was really hard and I wasn't really confident after it so I'm really happy to bounce back.

'I don't know how it will be next year but if I am in the Olympic team it will be a big confidence boost.'

A silver medal for Prindis was enough to secure the overall K1 world title for 2023, the third time in his career he has been confirmed as the most consistent paddler over an entire season. The 34 year old Prindis is widely considered one of the greatest slalom paddlers never to go to an Olympic Games.

Italy's Giovanni De Gennaro finished second overall and Olympic champion Jiri Prskavec, also from Czechia, finished third.

Frenchman Boris Neveu gave home town fans a taste of what they might expect at next year's Olympic Games by storming to victory in the men's kayak cross final on Sunday.

New Zealand's Luuka Jones, who is set to compete in her fifth Olympic Games next year, took her first ever World Cup gold medal by taking the honours in the women's kayak cross final.

A capacity crowd made the most of the perfect weather by lining the banks of the Vaires-Sur-Marne white water stadium to experience the