



Anže Urankar, winner of the men's K1 event.



Charles Ferrion took the men's C1 title.

# French dominate the results

## World Sprint Championships

The wild water sprint world championships wrapped up with individual gold medals for Czechia, France and Slovenia, who had an excellent weekend of racing at the 1972 Olympic course in Augsburg, Germany.

The first gold medal of the day was awarded to Marie Nemcova from Czechia, who found the fastest lines in the women's kayak final. The tears were flowing down the cheeks of the 22 year old paddler who was celebrating her second title of the year in women's kayak. Nemcova repeated her success from less than a month earlier when she became European champion in Skopje.

'It feels amazing. It was really stressful,' Nemcova said.

'After me there were still five girls at the top so I had to wait here at the finish line. The time between the girls was so tight. It was stressful to see if they were going to do it or not. I am so happy.'

Nemcova won her second individual medal of the day in the women's canoe final where she finished third. France's Laura Fontaine, also the reigning European champion in the women's canoe event, repeated her success in Augsburg. She stopped the clock at 70.68 which was a little over a second faster than Italian Cecilia Panato. Nemcova, in third place, was 2.28 seconds behind.

After the race Laura Fontaine could not hide her satisfaction.

'I changed my training a bit and it worked this year. I am happy I managed to cope with the pressure,' she said.

'It was quite good. I felt calm. After the bridge the big wave of the course is really tricky. I know I did well at that part.'

Fontaine had a busy schedule ahead as she would continue her season at the World Cup in Mezzana and U23 world championships in Roudnice nad Labem in July.

In the men's kayak event the world champion's title stayed in Slovenia but it would be in different hands. It was Anže Urankar who was unbeatable on the rapids of the Lech River.

Nejc Žnidarcic, the defending champion from 2022, was chasing the record seventh world champion title, which would secure him a top position in the all time greatest paddlers, but was left empty handed after his final run. He finished fourth, just outside the medals.

However, the Slovenian team and loud fans who came to support them in Augsburg were celebrating a double win. Anže Urankar proved to be in excellent shape this year after already being crowned European champion in wild water sprint this May in Skopje. This was his second wild water sprint world champion title after being the best in 2017 at the world championships in Pau.

The silver medal went to Slovenia, too, through Simon Oven, the 2018 classic world champion, while Luca Barone from France took the bronze medal.

'I am really happy. The top part was perfect. At the end I was a little bit tired but it was enough,' Urankar said.

'I did it after six years. In Skopje I expected the European champion



title but here I was not so sure. You need a little bit of luck. I had it today. I am super, super happy.'

Urankar would now prepare for the canoe sprint competitions at the European Games, where he would compete in kayak over 200 and 500 metres and in the mixed K2 500 metres event together with Špela Ponomarenko Janic.

Charles Ferrion was unbeatable at this year's major international wild water canoeing competitions. The young French canoeist had a big advantage of 0.73 second over second placed Blaž Cof from Slovenia, while František Salaj from Czechia, in third position, recorded a 1.54 seconds slower time. Ferrion was also reigning European champion in wild water sprint.

'It is very good to win this title after my European champion title,' Ferrion said.

'The qualification day was very difficult for me. I took my final ticket after the second run. Today I had a very good final with a very good time. This was the best time of the week in men's C1. It's amazing.'

In the men's Canadian double final the Czech duo Daniel Suchanek/Ondrej Rolenc picked up the gold medal and celebrated world champion titles. Two French crews joined them on the podium. Nicolas Sauter/Theo Viens were second and Hugues Moret/Pierre Troubadou were third.

Elsa Gaubert and Margot Beziat (Fra) were the best in the women's Canadian double final. Their closest opponents were sisters Alice and Cecilia Panato who were 0.38 second behind to take the silver medal and Swiss duo Hannah Mueller/Mona Clavadetscher took the bronze medal.

In the afternoon the team events were held on the Eiskanal. The Slovenian trio justified the role of the main favourites for the team gold medal in the men's kayak event. Anže Urankar, Simon Oven and Nejc Žnidarcic produced a superb run, finishing the race half a second ahead of the German team, while France picked up the bronze medal.

In the women's kayak team event France took the win ahead of Czechia while the bronze medal surprisingly went to Slovenia. The last set of medals was awarded in the men's canoe team event. Here Germany won on their home course, ahead of teams from France and Czechia.

## Nina Jelenc

- K1W:** 1 M Nemcova, Czechia, 66.50. 2 G Formenton, Italia, 66.64. L Vinet, France, 66.64.
- K1M:** 1 A Urankar, Slovenija, 59.93. 2 S Oven, Slovenija, 60.15. 3 L Barone, France, 60.19.
- C1M:** 1 C Ferrion, France, 64.82. 2 B Cof, Slovenija, 65.55. 3 F Salaj, Czechia, 66.36.
- C2W:** 1 Gaubert/Beziat, France, 71.99. 2 Panato/Panato, Italia, 72.37.
- 3 Mueller/Clavadetscher, Schweiz, 73.11. 7 Christie/Christie, GB, 77.51. 8 Milne/Dilaj, GB, 79.84
- K1WT:** 1 France, 70.91. 2 Czechia, 73.97. 3 Slovenija, 74.54. 6 GB, 84.58.
- K1MT:** 1 Slovenija, 63.84. 2 Deutschland, 64.32. 3 France, 65.52. 10 GB, 79.17.
- C1WT:** 1 France, 77.62. 2 Czechia, 78.75.
- C1MT:** 1 Deutschland, 69.55. 2 France, 70.40. 3 Czechia, 71.76.