



Emma Jørgensen, 500m winner.

There was also a return to the top of the podium for the Polish women's K4 team and Martin Fuksa stormed home to take C1 1,000 gold in his first individual race of the season.

Liudmyla Luzan won the women's C1 200 and the Ukrainian men's K4 could not have been more impressive in winning the 500 metres but it was the performance of 23 year old Varga which caught the attention of canoe sprint watchers.

Varga not only smashed an Olympic class K1 1,000 field but he also locked away Hungarian selection for this year's world championships by defeating team mate and the Tokyo Olympic gold medalist for the second time in less than a month.

Varga took silver behind Kopasz in Tokyo but has cemented himself as the early favourite for Paris in 2024.

'I'm always nervous; maybe it doesn't look that way but I had good confidence because of Szeged so I thought maybe the result would be the same,' Varga said.

'I hope I'm not at my peak yet and that I can get a little bit better. I think today was a full K1 field.'

Portugal's Fernando Pimenta took the silver and Balint Kopasz the bronze in a repeat of the podium from the opening World Cup in Szeged.

Ukraine returned to international racing after missing the World Cup and was rewarded on Saturday with C1 200 gold for Luzan and the men's K4. Luzan timed her finish perfectly to split China's Wenjun Lin and Changwen Shuai.

Ukraine took to the K4 500 men's final with the same crew who took bronze at last year's world championships and took control of Saturday's final early and never looked under threat. They beat a fast finishing Australia with Denmark taking the bronze.

Martin Fuksa chose to focus on the C2 500 in Szeged with his brother, Petr, and, after struggling through his C1 1,000 heat on Friday, looked to be well off the top form that has seen him win five world championship silver medals.

On Saturday he started in lane nine and looked out of the medals with 250 metres to go but the 30 year old found an extra gear in the closing stages to snatch gold from local hope Wiktor Glazunow.

'It was tight but now I'm the winner in my first C1 1,000 international so now I'm happy,' Fuksa said.

'Yesterday was not easy but I wanted lane nine because I wanted to just focus on my race, not on any other athlete but just on me. I am still in good shape but I know that I can get faster this season.'

Italy's Carlo Tacchini took the bronze.



Akmens wins the 200m.



Dostal commenting on his 500m win.