



*Pimenta and Pedersen in the 5km race.*

Poland returned to the women's K4 lineup which won them the world championships last year and were rewarded with a win on Saturday. After finishing sixth in Szeged, Tokyo Olympian Anna Pulawska returned to the crew and it gave the home team the edge over China, who had won in Szeged and Germany.

'It was a big difference; this race felt really good for us so now we are really focussed for our next race at the European Games,' Dominika Putto said. 'This year is so different from all others; we have a plan for qualification to make sure we can qualify all the positions we can for Paris so this is what we are working towards,' team mate Adrianna Kakol said.

Poland also picked up three gold medals in non Olympic races while there was also gold for Latvia, Italy and China.

Five nations shared the gold medals in Olympic distance events on the final day on Sunday.

Poland, Lithuania, Denmark, China and Italy all won in near perfect conditions at Poznan, the final World Cup before this year's world championships and Olympic qualifiers in Duisburg in August.

In non Olympic events there were two more golds for Ukraine, a first ever gold for Chinese Taipei and victories for Czechia, Portugal, China, Hungary, Sweden and Denmark.

China's C2 500 women's team continued to dominate their event with Shixiao Xu and Mengya Sun continuing their unbeaten run since winning inaugural gold at the Tokyo Olympics. Xu and Sun finished ahead of Hungary's Giada Bragato and Bianka Nagy and Ukraine's Liudmyla Luzan and Valeriia Tereta.

Italy's Gabriele Casadei and Carlo Tacchini emerged from a crowded field to win the men's C2 500 and, in doing so, throwing themselves in the mix to contest this year's world championships and Olympic qualifiers.

The Italians snatched victory in the closing metres from Ukraine's Vitaliy Vergeles and Andrii Rybachok with Poland's Aleksander Kitewski and Norman Zezula.

'We just put this boat together a few months ago so it's pretty satisfying that we are already competing at this high level,' Tacchini said.

'It's a long and hard season but the first few steps have been strong.'



*Maldonis/Olunik win the K2 500m.*