



Luzan/Chetverikova.



Katie Vincent.



Craciun/Santini.

ICF photographs

Ukraine picked up two gold medals and Hungarian champion Danuta Kozak teamed with Tamara Csipes to win her 15th world title.

Finals in five Olympic events were held on Saturday with Pimenta winning the men's K1 1,000m, Scheibner the men's C1 1,000m, Ukraine's Liudmyla Luzan and Anastasiia Chetverikova won the women's C2 500m, their team mates took the men's K4 500m gold and Kozak and Csipes won the women's K2 500m.

Pimenta returned to the position of world champion for the first time since 2018, holding off reigning world champion and Tokyo gold medallist Balint Kopasz over the 1,000 metres. Pimenta had to settle for bronze in Japan.

'When I arrived in Portugal I needed to take some days of rest, no training, completely off, and when I started back training it was the most bad experience of my life,' Pimenta said.

'It was so hard to once again follow the training plan, have the long training sessions. I think in the past two weeks I had better feelings and now I'm happy with this result.'

Kopasz took silver with Aleh Yurenia finishing with the bronze.

Liudmyla Luzan and Anastasiia Chetverikova took silver in the women's C2 500m in Tokyo but went one better in convincing style in Copenhagen on the Saturday.

'We are so happy; it was a very hard race because the weather was not so good,' Chetverikova said.

'Tokyo was hard for us but this is a great finish to the season for us.'

Alena Nazdrova and Nadzeya Makarchanka of Belarus took the silver while Cuba's Yarisleidis Duboys and Katherin Segura secured the bronze.

Conrad Scheibner was disappointed with his sixth placing in the men's C1 1,000m at the Tokyo Olympics but became world champion on the Saturday with a dramatic last gasp win over the Czech Republic's Martin Fuksa.

German team mate Sebastian Brendel has been the biggest name in men's canoe for a decade but Scheibner is ready to take over the crown.

'This year has been really long,' Scheibner said.

'After Tokyo, when I wasn't satisfied, I wanted to show everyone I was capable of winning and, luckily, I did here.'

'I was winning most of the races against Sebastian this season and I also proved it in Tokyo but I'm really happy to have him as a role model to motivate me to train to become the athlete I am now.'

Fuksa finished with silver and Hungarian Balazs Adolf the bronze.

Legend Danuta Kozak grabbed her 15th world title when she teamed up with Tamara Csipes to win the women's K2 500m, again in a last gasp result over Belarus's Volha Khudzenka and Maryna Litvinchuk.

The pair had limited preparation for the world championships, having to also focus on K4 and the K1 500m for Csipes.

'It's good to win this race but we feel our year has been very long so we are glad we could do this today,' Kozak said.

'This was our fifth session so we didn't have much time to prepare but we were faster at home on the training sessions,' Csipes said.

'This was our most important race so it was relief to win.'

Belgium's Hermien Peters and Lize Broekx took the bronze.

Oleh Kukharyk, Dmytro Danylenko, Igor Trunov and Ivan Semykin combined to win Ukraine's first ever men's K4 gold medal, outlasting crews from Slovakia and the Czech Republic to win the 500m.

'We have been waiting for this day, to say to our world we would win and we would go home with the gold,' Kukharyk said.

'One month ago we came to our camp and our team believed in us. We are the best team in the world; you don't look at the physics. You look at the soul; our soul is very strong.'

A major changing of the guard took place on the Sunday with three first time world champions and two title holders reclaiming their gold medals in Olympic class events.

Canada's Katie Vincent and Aimee Fisher stepped out from the shadows of high profile team mates, Italy took its first ever C2 men's

500m gold, Spain returned to the top of the podium in the men's K2 500m after a four year absence and the Belarus women's K4 500m ended an even longer drought, returning as world champions after six years.

Katie Vincent had never won a senior world championship medal in the women's C1 200m before the Sunday, having watched as her team mate and C2 partner Laurence Vincent-Lapointe took six of the past eight titles but Vincent finally broke through on Sunday, outpunting Spain's Antia Jacome and Dorota Borowska.

'All this hard work for the past few years to get to this point and now I'm looking forward to the future,' Vincent said.

'I really feel like this is the beginning; there is a long road to go for me. I'm really looking forward to worlds next year at home, to be the reigning world champion added into a home world championships will be super exciting.'

'I have ups and downs since Tokyo; there were a lot of emotions and things to process and there still is. It kept me going and I reconnected with my love for this sport.'

Aimee Fisher also won her first K1 500m world title, a race in which team mate Lisa Carrington was the reigning world champion and current Olympic champion. Fisher was controversially left out of the New Zealand Tokyo Olympics team.

'That was so special, so special for everyone back home,' Fisher said.

'It's been tough. It's definitely had its moments when I wanted to walk away, to give up because I didn't think I could do it, but this is the icing on the cake to come here today and show to myself that I can do this.'

'It's very liberating to have so much ownership over my sporting pursuits. There's been a few times when there's been tears and I wanted to run away and leave the venue but pressure is a privilege.'

Olympic silver and bronze medallists Tamara Csipes and Emma Jorgensen of Denmark once again filled the minor placings on Sunday.

Italy won its first ever C2 500m world title, an event which will be added to the Paris 2024 Olympic programme. Nicolae Craciun and Daniele Santini won their first title as U23 paddlers in Europe eight years ago.

'We are so excited we made Italian history, so, for us, it is very important, the first gold medallists and world champions in this Olympic distance for Italy,' Craciun said.

'From this world championships begin a new Olympic cycle so to start with this win is very good for us.'

Hungary's Jonatan Hajdu and Adam Fekete finished second while Viktor Melantev and Vladislav Chebotar took bronze for the Russian Canoe Federation.

Spain's Marcus Walz and Rodrigo Germade last won the men's K2 500m world title in 2017 and, after just scraping into Sunday's final, returned to the top of the podium in an event which will also be added to the 2024 Olympic schedule.

'It's been tough to get to the final; it's been tough to train after the Olympic Games.'

'It was difficult to maintain our physical performance,' Walz said.

'We've done one of the best races in our life. We have been doing the K2 500 together for a few years; we love this distance. We love paddling together.'

'Finally, this race is an Olympic event so this is great and we are very happy so for now we want to keep paddling together.'

Tobias Schultz and Martin Hiller took the silver and Slovaks Samuel Balz and Denis Mysak the bronze.

The only team to beat the Hungarian women's K4 in the past nine years was Belarus back in 2015 and on Sunday the exact same quartet again inflicted a rare defeat on the reigning Olympic champions.

Marharyta Makhneva, Nadzeya Liapshka, Volha Khudzenka and Maryna Litvinchuk celebrated a decade of paddling together with a nail biting finish.