



One of the winning Hungarian K4s.



Hungarian under 23 Zsoka Csikos.

Roeser takes 5km title

World J/U23 Championships

Hungary completed a clean sweep of all the K4 medals while host nation Italy picked up four golds on the first day of finals at the Junior and U23 World Championships in Auronzo on the Friday.

There were also gold medals for Bulgaria, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Germany and Spain on a busy day of finals.

Hungary took the honours in the men's and women's junior K4 500 and the men's and women's U23 K4 500 on their way to six gold medals overall. Agnes Kiss and Csepke Molnar successfully defended their women's junior C2 500 title.

'We practised a lot for this race so now we are very happy,' Molnar said.

'I didn't really see the other competitors, just for the first 200. I think we had a lot of confidence. We're looking forward to the gold medal because we worked very hard for it.'

Borka Zagyvai completed the gold medal haul for Hungary by winning the women's C1 U23 1,000 metres title.

Italy's Sara Del Gratta came to Auronzo as the defending women's junior K1 500 champion and on the Friday added the junior 200 metre K1 title to her collection. The Italian crowd also celebrated success through Samuele Veglianti in the men's C1 junior 1,000, Federico Zanutta and Fabiano Palliola in the men's K2 junior 1,000 and Gabriele Casadei in the men's C1 U23 1,000.

Kazakhstan's Mariya Brovkova had already been identified as a star of the future and on the Friday further enhanced her standings by defending her junior C1 1,000 metre title. Brovkova had already taken a senior World Cup gold and won on the Friday by more than seven seconds.

Germany's Tobias Hammer and Jan Prager were equally impressive in snatching the men's U23 K2 1,000 title.

'Our race plan was executed 100 per cent how we wanted,' Prager said.

'We had a really hard selections this year for our team but we managed to get some good races and that's the result. Our adrenalin is catching up and the pain was slowly getting away but it was a great race.'



Bulgaria's Yoana Georgieva took bronze in the women's U23 K1 200 last year but went two places better on the Friday to win her first major title, finishing just 0.03 second ahead of Latvia's Krista Berzina in one of the closest races of the day.

Spain's Pablo Crespo and Martin Jacome won the men's U23 C2 1,000, Moldova's Daniela Cociu and Maria Olarasu the women's U23 C2 500 and Ukraine's Yaroslav Verbliud and Vitalii Prystai took the men's junior C2 1,000 gold.

Hungary picked up 11 gold medals in a dominant display of canoe and kayak racing in Auronzo on the Saturday.

Agnes Kiss picked up a second gold medal for the week as the Hungarians won more than half the gold medals on offer during a busy day of finals action in Italy.

Germany was the next best performer, picking up three gold medals. Tobias Hammer, who won in K2 on the Friday, won the men's U23 K1 1,000 by just 0.04 second from Denmark's Thorbjorn Rask.

'It feels amazing to win here, after the K2 yesterday, the K1 today; it's such an amazing feeling,' Hammer said.

'It's really really hard to race here, all the practice for this race, all those weeks, it's over and I've won. The whole pressure comes off and it feels amazing. I didn't expect to win two gold medals so it's really nice.'

Germany's other gold medals came from Caroline Heuser in the women's junior K1 1,000 and Finja Hermanussen and Julius Geisen in the K2 junior mixed 500.

Just 24 hours after winning the junior C2 500, Agnes Kiss was once again on the top podium after victory in the women's junior C1 500. Last year Kiss finished second in the same race.

Peter Samu and Zolan Hidvegi began the Hungarian gold rush with a win in the men's K2 junior 500. The pair were part of the victorious Hungarian K4 crew from the Friday and both had also won last year, Samu in the K2 500 and Hidvegi in the K4.

'It was really hard, one of the hardest races of my life for sure, so it feels really nice to have done a brilliant race,' Hidvegi said.

'This is the feeling we wanted in the end. We messed up the start; it was one of our worst starts ever but we got that result. We felt good after winning gold yesterday and we both have gold medals from last year so it's a nice collection.'



Hammer/Prager took the under 23 1km title.



Filipe Vieira took the under 23 C1 500m win.