



Etienne Klatt.



Martina Satkova.



Suchanek/Rolenc.



Ondrej Rolenc.

Rolenc the most successful ever

World Championships

Frenchman Etienne Klatt showed no signs of nerves at his first senior wild water world championships by qualifying fastest in the men's C1 sprint in windy conditions at Bratislava on the Friday.

Czech Martina Satkova began her quest for a first ever women's K1 sprint world title by posting the quickest heat time, team mate Marie Nemcova did the same in the C1 while Germany's Yannic Lemmen, chasing his first men's K1 world championship medal, was almost a full second faster than the rest of the field.

Czech's Daniel Suchanek and Ondrej Rolenc were fastest in the men's C2 with Slovak twin brothers and three time C2 Olympic gold medallists Pavol and Peter Hochschorner extending their international career by one day by qualifying for the Saturday's final.

The 23 year old Klatt, an U23 C2 gold medallist, finished 0.75 of a second ahead of Czech Vladimír Slanina with three time world champion Ondrej Rolenc third fastest.

'It's my first world championships so I feel happy with this result,' he said.

'I don't really feel nervous. I think I have shown a lot of improvement in this last year because I think if this had been last year I would have been much more stressed. To be good today doesn't mean that I will do good tomorrow so I must stay focused.'

Reigning C1 sprint gold medallist Martina Satkova was eyeing off a chance at history by becoming the first wild water racer to win both a K1 and a C1 sprint world title at a senior world championships.

The 23 year old Satkova achieved both titles at a junior and U23 world championships but was yet to win a K1 sprint senior title. She qualified fastest for the Saturday's final in the K1 and seventh fastest in the C1.

'I am so happy to have done this on my first run because I have a really busy programme so if I can rest it will be so good for me,' Satkova said after her K1 run.

'I feel really good but the main race is tomorrow so we will see then.'

Satkova finished just 0.07 second ahead of France's Pauline Freslon with Germany's Elisabeth Kostle third quickest.

Marie Nemcova was chasing her first C1 world title after previously taking silver and bronze. She posted the fastest qualifying time despite using a move she had never done before.

'I switched at one place where I had never switched before but it was okay so I'm really happy,' Nemcova said.

'I feel pretty good but this course is pretty hard so every time it can be a surprise what happens so I really don't know.

'It's been a little hard because we didn't really have much training or races so it was a challenge so I'm really glad we can be here again.

Team mate Tereza Kneblova was second fastest and Italian Cecilia Panato third.

The 26 year old Lemmen was hoping to finally break through for a K1 sprint world championship medal this weekend. His closest finish so far had been a fourth placing at his first world titles in 2015, missing a medal by a fraction of a second.

'I'm feeling really good. I really love the course. I'm really happy with the white water; it's quite heavy,' Lemmen said.



'I'm pretty happy with my run; it was almost perfect. There was a little mistake at the end but overall it was such a nice run; hopefully I will repeat it in the final.'

In men's C2 the Czech Republic was hoping to win the only major gold medal which has eluded them in senior world championships after posting the fastest qualifying time on Friday.

Daniel Suchanek and Ondrej Rolenc were hoping to snap a Czech losing streak which extended for 14 world championships.

'We will see; two years ago our colleagues finished second so I think all the Czech boats will try to do better here,' Suchanek said.

'Every medal will be okay but we will fight.'

France's Pierre Troubaday and Hugues Moret finished second fastest while three time C2 Olympic gold medallists Pavol and Peter Hochschorner, in their final international race, moved into Saturday's final in third position.

Multiple world title holders Nejc Znidarcic of Slovenia and Ondrej Rolenc became world champions again as class and experience showed through on the finals day.

Cecilia Panato returned to the top of the podium in the women's C1 sprint and Lise Vinet made it a fourth consecutive world title for France in the women's K1 sprint.

Rolenc enjoyed a day out, winning his fourth C1 wild water sprint title and then teaming up with Daniel Suchanek to win the first ever C2 sprint world title for the Czech Republic.

'It's pretty amazing. I still can't believe it,' Suchanek said.

'If someone had told us we will win here, against all these teams who are so strong, I would not have believed it.'

'Here you need a lot of luck to make a good run and today I made two very good runs so I am satisfied,' Rolenc said.

Three time world champions Quentin Dazeur and Stephane Santamaria took the silver while team mates Pierre Troubaday and Hugues Moret took the bronze. Pavol and Peter Hochschorner bid farewell to their home fans with a seventh placing.

Rolenc said he had been contemplating retirement but, after adding this year's title to the C1 sprint he won in 2014, 2016 and 2017, he was determined to go on.

'I think I will go to Treignac next year and maybe after that I will say thank you very much for my whole career and maybe then I will say goodbye if I win, Rolenc said.

'I would like now to say goodbye but Treignac is looking very nice so I would like to race there. I will wait one year and see then how I feel.'

French paddlers once again filled the minor placings with Quentin Dazeur second and Charles Ferrion third.

Znidarcic made it three world titles in a row and a fifth overall in the men's K1. He won his first world title in 2011, defended the title in 2012, and won again in 2018 and 2019 before adding the 2021 crown on the Saturday.

'I was thinking a little about this before the season started because there were four guys who all had four championship titles and now I have managed to grab this fifth one so I'm really happy with this,' Znidarcic said.

'This today was harder. I was so anxious before this race and I don't know why. It seems experience paid off today.

'I will keep going for sure because I'm still enjoying it. You never get tired of winning so until I am not competitive I will keep paddling.'

Yet again it was French paddlers completing the podium with Luca Barone second and Maxence Barough third.

There was some success for France with Lise Vinet continuing her country's extraordinary run of success in the women's K1. Vinet became the fourth French racer in four years to be crowned K1 world champion.

'It was not my best run but it was my best for this week,' Vinet said.

'I am a world champion; it is such a dream and this gold stays in



Cecilia Panato.



Nejc Znidarcic.