

was the fourth athlete on the course in the final and had to endure an agonizing wait to see if his time of 80.57 would be good enough. 'It's amazing, I'm speechless,' Chaloupka said. 'I was so nervous. Of course I wished the best for the rest of the field; they are all friends but I was so nervous just to stand there and watch each of them come down.' After a slow start to the season Chaloupka took the decision on the eve of the championships to change his equipment. 'I still probably don't understand what I have achieved. It's so special for me after a season that wasn't so good for me,' he said. 'I changed my boat two weeks ago; a lot of people said that was really risky but maybe that was the last percent of this success.' It was a popular hometown silver for Raffaello Ivaldi with Frenchman Cedric Joly taking the bronze.

Prigent, a double junior world championship bronze medallist, was the last competitor on the course, her time of 89.31 well under the 92.64 set by Lisa Leitner. 'It's so cool I can't believe it yet,' Prigent said. 'I felt good on the water but it was hard because we did a lot of sessions so I was always feeling stressed. It's easier when you are last on the course because when I come to the bottom I know the result. I didn't look at my time. I just saw I was ranked 1 and I was, like, no!'

Trave and Hocevar blew away their respective junior fields with Trave winning the men's C1 by almost 4 seconds and Hocevar was more than 3 seconds quicker than the next best in the women's junior K1. Trave posted a time of 81.98, quick enough to take bronze in the U23 and 3.84 seconds faster than Flavio Micozzi. 'It was a really good run, a great final,' Trave said. 'When I was warming up I felt a little bit nervous but during my semi final and my final I was able to calm down. It was a hard course but when I did it in the semi final I could see the good points to pay attention and in the final it was fine.'

Hocevar, a regular at senior canoe slalom World Cups, was able to use her experience to tame the difficult Ivrea course. Her time was 89.67, well ahead of Sona Stanovska's 93.23. 'It was amazing. I didn't expect it but it's happened,' Hocevar said. 'I've been training a lot for this. I'm young but I've raced and watched a lot of the older races so this helped me of course. I was nervous before the final but I told myself I needed to be calm.'

Italy's Jakob Weger thrilled his home crowd with a scintillating gold medal on the final day of competition. Nadine Weratschnig showed her class to win easily the women's U23 C1, finishing more than 3 seconds ahead of the rest of the field despite a 2 second penalty. There was double gold for the Czech Republic in the junior competition with Jan Barta winning the men's K1 and Gabriela Satkova taking the girl's C1. Weger held on to win the men's U23 K1 title, the final margin of 0.03 second over Great Britain's Bradley Forbes-Cryans less that the time it takes to blink an eye. 'It's an amazing feeling, especially because it's in Italy and the crowd is so amazing,' Weger said. 'I was nervous but for me it was already a victory just to make the final because it is always hard. I was really just trying to enjoy and have fun in the final. I didn't feel so well about a week before the worlds. I had a lot of trouble with my boat so I didn't really expect to win. I thought maybe a medal. I finished school this year so I had to study a lot so physically I haven't been in great shape.'

Weratschnig overcame a problematic semi final to win the women's U23 C1, edging out Great Britain's Kimberley Woods and Australia's Noemie Fox. Weratschnig had 6 seconds in penalties and almost missed a gate in the semi but still qualified for the final as fifth fastest. She went even faster in the final with half the field picking up 50 second penalties for missing gates on the difficult Ivrea course. 'Finally I got a run; finally I did it,' Weratschnig said. 'It's been really hard to show what I can do. Yes, I get frustrated but mostly it's my coach who gets most frustrated. 'This win will be good for my confidence.'

Gabriela Satkova was one of only two competitors to go through the women's junior C1 final without a penalty, which proved the difference as her time of 100.45 secured the gold ahead of Italy's Marta Bertonecchi. 'I was a bit stressed at the start, as always, but once I started to paddle it was really amazing,' Satkova said. 'I hoped I would get 3rd place. I wasn't sure if I would be fast enough to win. I couldn't watch the last few athletes because I was crying too much because I knew I had won a medal. 'It was going to be my first individual medal so I was happy.' Barta made it a golden double in the juniors for the Czech Republic. He was the only one to go under 80 seconds in the junior K1 final, his clean run of 79.40 enough to hold out Anatole Delassus in 80.32. 'It's pretty incredible. I think the whole race was cool,' Barta said. 'I love it. I love the feeling when I cross the finish line. I was most of the time improvising from gate 13 on so I think I made it special here. It's kind of stressful waiting at the bottom but it's also a great feeling because I knew I had done a great run.'

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Jakob Weger, U23 C1 winner, plays to the home crowd.



Nadine Weratschnig, was U23 C1 winner.



Junior C1 winner Gabriela Satkova.

ICF photographs

- K1WJ:** 1 E Hocevar, Slovenija, 89.67. 2 S Stanovska, Slovensko, 93.23.
3 N Braendle, Schweiz, 94.20. 5 B Farrow, GB, 98.53. 9 P Spicer, GB, 123.99. 11 L Leaver, GB.
- K1WU23:** 1 C Prigent, France, 89.31. 2 L Leitner, Österreich, 92.64. 3 K Woods, GB, 94.91.
- K1MJ:** 1 J Barta, Ceská, 79.40. 2 A Delassus, France, 80.32. 3 T Zima, Ceská, 81.00.
10 E Chappell, GB, 92.60.
- K1MU23:** 1 J Weger, Italia, 77.22. 2 B Forbes-Cryans, GB, 77.26. 3 E Holmer, Sverige, 80.85.
12 C Bowers, GB.
- C1WJ:** 1 G Satkova, Ceská, 100.45. 2 M Bertonecchi, Italia, 101.24.
3 S Stanovska, Slovensko, 104.55. 8 B Farrow, GB, 112.81. 13 D Cooil, GB.
- C1WU23:** 1 N Weratschnig, Österreich, 94.37. 2 K Woods, GB, 98.17. 3 N Fox, Australia, 99.18.
18 S Ogilvie, GB.
- C1MJ:** 1 M Trave, España, 81.98. 2 F Micozzi, Italia, 85.82. 3 N Gestin, France, 86.23.
10 B Haylett, GB, 147.58. 12 S Maingay, GB.
- C1MU23:** 1 V Chaloupa, Ceská, 80.57. 2 R Ivaldi, Italia, 81.28. 3 C Joly, France, 83.91.
5 S Ibbotson, GB, 86.52. 12 W Smith, GB.
- K1WJT:** 1 Ceská, 109.38. 2 Slovenija, 109.70. 3 Italia, 110.40. 4 GB, 111.45.
- K1WU23T:** 1 Slovensko, 109.67. 2 Ceská, 112.84. 3 GB, 112.88.
- K1MJT:** 1 France, 93.30. 2 Ceská, 93.59. 3 Deutschland, 95.63. 5 GB, 99.44.
- K1MU23T:** 1 France, 88.21. 2 Italia, 90.31. 3 Österreich, 91.71. 19 GB, 146.91.
- C1WJT:** 1 Ceská, 119.13. 2 GB, 127.94. 3 France, 129.38.
- C1WU23T:** 1 España, 117.27. 2 Slovenija, 119.03. 3 Ceská, 123.64. 4 GB, 127.63.
- C1MJT:** 1 France, 97.58. 2 Ceská, 103.72. 3 Slovenija, 105.91. 12 GB, 171.89.
- C1MU23T:** 1 Deutschland, 94.78. 2 France, 97.21. 3 GB, 99.03.
- K1WXU23:** 1 A Satila, Brasil. 2 S Jones, Deutschland. 3 A Hilgertova, Ceská. 10 E Davies, GB.
13 C Lee, GB.
- K1MXJ:** 1 J Rohrer, Schweiz. 2 J Krejci, Ceská. 3 P Echaniz, España.
- K1MXU23:** 1 D Marx, Schweiz. 2 M Quemeneur, France. 3 N Inkin, Rossija.