



Jess Fox did win the C1 class...



... but Corinna Kuhnle took the K1.



Alexander Slafkovsky edged out of the C1...



... by winner Sideris Tasiadis.

ICF photographs

Fox's record run stopped

Tacen Slalom

Australia's Jessica Fox had already created history in 2018 and on Friday she showed every sign that her total domination of canoe slalom this year might extend into a fourth weekend. The two time Olympic medallist was unbeaten in both the women's K1 and C1 this year, winning golden doubles in Liptovsky, Kraków and Augsburg, a record without peer in the history of both men's and women's paddling. On Friday in the rain at Tacen, Slovenia, the 24 year old safely navigated her way into both the K1 and C1 semi finals at the weekend. She was seventh quickest behind Germany's Ricarda Funk in the K1 and five seconds quicker than the next best in the C1. 'It's been an incredible start to the season, my best ever in both K1 and C1,' Fox said. 'It would be amazing to go four, five, but the competition is always tough, especially in Tacen, so I'm looking forward to getting out there and having a good crack at it. It's very special and, obviously, I'm very proud of the way I raced. It means a lot because I've never won three gold medals in the K1 before in the World Cup and I've never won the overall title before in the K1. I guess that's what is exciting. This is the first time I'm in the running for that.'

Funk, who dominated World Cups in 2017, was looming as the biggest threat to Fox's perfect record. 'Jessica is a really good paddler,' Funk said. 'I will really try to be as fast as she is but we will see how it goes.'

In the men's events, hometown knowledge helped Slovenia's Zan Jakse to take a surprise top spot in the men's K1 qualifying. Jakse, who lives just minutes from the Tacen course, finished 0.11 second ahead of Czech Jiri Prskavec. Prskavec currently sat second in the overall World Cup standings but was still to win this season. 'I'm pretty happy. I didn't feel all that confident on gates one and two but I guess that's pretty normal here in Tacen,' Prskavec said. 'I haven't had many good races here but it's a lot of fun and the Slovenian fans are always good. I'm pretty happy with my season but I just need to get to the top one day. I'm trying to work on clean runs because that's something I've been struggling with in finals.' In the men's C1 Slovakia's Alexander Slafkovsky continued his strong season by qualifying fastest ahead of four Slovenians, headed by Luka Bozic. Slafkovsky had taken three consecutive silver medals but was a clear overall leader in the race for World Cup honours.

Like a European summer, the incredible winning run of Jessica Fox had to end eventually. On a day more resembling winter in



TACEN LJUBLJANA
ICF CANOE SLALOM
WORLD CUP 18

Tacen, Austria's Corinna Kuhnle delivered the run that finally snapped the historic dominance of the Australian. In the men's C1, Germany's Sideris Tasiadis took his third World Cup gold of the season, relegating Alexander Slafkovsky to his fourth consecutive silver medal. It took something special from the two time Olympian from Austria to stop the rampaging Australian in the pelting rain. 'I think everyone came here wanting to beat Jess; she's the one that's being chased and that's what I wanted to do,' Kuhnle said. 'That's what I was trying to do and it's worked out. I do love this course. I've won a couple of races here and championships so I really feel comfortable here.' Kuhnle posted a clean time of 107.94 with Fox second in 109.01 and another Austrian, Viktoria Wolfhardt, winning her first ever K1 medal by finishing 3rd.

Fox said she was thrilled to win another medal. 'After each weekend I was telling myself "Wow, it's going to be really hard to back that up." It's just been an amazing season, my best season ever,' Fox said. 'I'm just really happy to be on the podium again. I'm really happy with my run except for the last two gates and the finish line. To be on the podium like this and be consistent, I think that's what is important.'

Tasiadis followed up his winning performances in Liptovsky and Augsburg with a faultless run in Tacen, his time of 103.00 pipping Slafkovsky's 103.68. It was a breakthrough win for the German in Tacen. 'This is my first gold medal here, in fact my first medal on this course,' Tasiadis said. 'I like the course very much; you can go with the water but today the course was tough. You have to be awake the whole time because if you sleep just a little bit then you will lose the gate. I'm really happy about my final because my semi final was not so good.' Another German, Franz Anton, took the bronze on the course where he won his first ever World Cup medal.

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K1W: 1 C Kuhnle, Österreich, 107.94. 2 J Fox, Australien, 109.01.

3 V Wolfhardt, Österreich, 113.10.

K1M: 1 Z Jakse, Slovenija, 82.33. 2 J Prskavec, Česká, 82.44. 3 M Brazizzo, France, 84.52.

17 Z Franklin, GB, 86.63.

C1W: 1 J Fox, Australien, 103.23. 2 R Lawrence, Australien, 108.38.

3 S Stanovska, Slovensko, 111.15. 7 E Miller, GB, 122.11.

C1M: 1 S Tasiadis, Deutschland, 103.00. 2 A Slafkovsky, Solvensko, 103.68.

3 A Franz, Deutschland, 104.29. 20 T Abbott, GB.