

Germany's Peter Kretschmer, who won C2 1,000 at the London Olympics, teamed up with Yul Oeltze to win the C2 1,000 final.

'We have been training together for two months,' Kretschmer said.

'For the last ten years Germany has had every year a different C2 and we want to be the C2 this year. We have so many good paddlers in our country and it is possible to have a different C2 every year.

'Last year we didn't go to the Olympics so it is a big motivation for us to go to Tokyo.'

Germany's Melanie Gebhardt was an impressive winner of the women's K1 1,000 final, finishing almost a full second ahead of Australia's Jo Bridgen-Jones.

France's Maxime Beaumont had broken through for a win over Rio gold medallist Liam Heath and Sweden's Linnea Stensils had the biggest win of her career on a big final day.

There was also a return to form for the German K2 500 Olympic gold medallists, Franziska Weber and Tina Dietz, another solid win for the German men's K4 500 and a breakthrough win for France in the women's K4 500 in challenging windy conditions.

Belarus picked up another two gold medals in their first international competition of the season, Martin Fuksa won his fifth canoe gold medal of his World Cups campaign and teammate Josef Dostál was a big winner in the men's K1 500.

There were also gold medals for Portugal in the women's K2 200, for Poland in the men's C2 500 and a second gold medal for Canada's Laurence Vincent-Lapointe in the women's C1 200.

After taking silver behind Heath in Rio and again the previous weekend in Szeged, Beaumont said it meant a lot to finally break through.

'It was very important for me. I would like to get at least one win over Liam before the European or world championships,' he said.

'It will be a very good fight the next time we compete. I am a little tired because I have had a lot of competition without going home but I tried to do the maximum with the energy I have.'

Stensils made the K1 200 final in Rio and said she had always struggled with confidence before this day.

'It feels great to finally get on the podium after three 5th places in these World Cups,' she said.

'I've been a little bit stressed in other races so I tried to be in my own race. I tried not to think about the podium, just think about my own race. I know when I get a good race I can be near the top. I think my technique and everything is good. I just need the confidence.'

Franziska Weber and Tina Dietze, had a rare weekend off the podium in Szeged but returned to form on Sunday with a comprehensive win.

'We are far away from the feeling we usually have; it's a long way until we have good races in the worlds and getting on the podium,' Weber said.

'It was January when we did the first training and we have to become really healthy again after Szeged, where we had some problems finding power in the water.'

Their teammates Max Rendschmidt, Tom Liebscher, Ronald Rauhe and Max Lemke won their second consecutive gold medal in the new Olympic K4 1,000 event.

'It was a bit different than last week; we had different conditions. We have enough things to do before Europe. We will see what we do in future races. We need some secret stuff for the worlds; we will try some different stuff,' Rauhe said.

France's Sarah Guyot, Sarah Troel, Manon Hostens and Lea Jamelot won the women's K4 500 in one of their first races together.

'We are a new boat so it is important for us to improve,' Jamelot said.

'Sarah Guyot has joined us since the Olympics; she takes the lead in the boat so it's a good thing.

'We didn't think about the result; we just wanted to do the best race we could.'

Martin Fuksa continued his dominance of the canoe events in 2017, winning the C1 200 to bring his gold medal tally for the three World Cups to five.

'I raced C1 six times in the World Cups and I have five gold medals; it is excellent for me,' Fuksa said.

'I train for the 1,000 and 200 metres is a bonus for me but I know every 200 race is a new chance. I will do all the C1 races in the European championships but I'm not sure for the world championships.'

Josef Dostál posted a strong win in the K1 500 and said even though it is not an Olympic race he likes the shorter race.

'I like the 500 race because in the 1,000 you have to think about a tactic before but in the 500 I am discovering the tactic during the race,' he said.

'I am a long way from my best in the 1,000. All my sprints are not that good. Maybe there was an exception last year when I won two World Cups but the year before it was not good.'

Laurence Vincent-Lapointe made it back to back wins in the women's C1 200 but was far from happy with her race.

'I'm happy but I would have liked to have had a better race,' she said.

'I'm disappointed because I didn't have enough control over what I did but it was okay.'

Portugal's Francisca Laia and Joana Vasconcelos took the gold in the K2 200.

'This is the last World Cup and the last moment before the important races of the season, like the European and the world championships,' Laia said.

'So we are very happy about winning here. It is a motivation for us. Every time we have been in the water we feeling stronger.'

Poland's Tomasz Barniak and Wiktor Glazunow, racing for just a second time together, took a surprise gold from lane one in the men's C2 500.

'This is our first gold for the World Cup so we are very happy,' Glazunow said.

'We had a good tactic because the wind was coming from the right side so we had a big 150 metre finish.'

Belarus followed up their three gold medals from Saturday with another two canoe gold medals on Sunday.

Alena Nazdrova teamed up with Kamila Bobr to add the C2 500 gold to the individual gold she won on Saturday while Volha Klimava and Nadzeya Makarchanka won the C2 200 title.

ICF

200m: K1W: 1 L Stensils, Sverige, 41.020. 2 S Janic, Slovenija, 41.070.

3 M Walczykiewicz, Polska, 41.207. 6 J Walker, GB, 42.075.

K1M: 1 M Beaumont, France, 35.422. 2 L Heath, GB, 35.432. 3 C Garrote, España, 35.610.

K2W: 1 Vasconcelos/Laia, Portugal, 38.208. 2 Bridgen-Jones/Roberts, Australia, 38.648.

3 Lehaci/Schwarz, Österreich, 39.056. 7 Brown/Hannah, GB, 39.584.

K2W: 1 Weber/Dietze, Deutschland, 1:42.925. 2 Pulawska/Mikolajczyk, Polska, 1:43.905.

3 Broeckx/Peters, Belgique, 1:44.467. 13 Brown/Hannah, GB.

James takes 200m title in stormy conditions

World U23/J Championships

Brazil's Isaquias Queiroz dos Santos said he was feeling 'relaxed' after his first day of world championships competition since his history making Olympic achievements in Rio last year.

Queiroz dos Santos, who finished second at the World Cup event in Szeged this year, looked comfortable in his heats and semi finals of the C1 1,000 at the U23 and junior world championships in Pitesti, Romania.

He qualified fastest for Saturday's final.

'This is my last year paddling in the U23s and my first event in this competition,' Queiroz dos Santos said.

'I'm very happy my coach gave his consent for me to race here because it is a very different competition.

'I don't feel any extra pressure because of my Olympic results. My first objective is the world championships in Racice but I'm feeling pretty relaxed.'

Queiroz dos Santos took silver medals in the C1 1,000 and C2 1,000



and a bronze medal in the C1 200 in front of thousands of fans and a Brazilian television audience in the millions.

Not surprisingly, the 23 year old is now a household name throughout Brazil.

'My life had a big change after the Rio Olympics because I had become a more popular athlete, the first one in my sport (to win three medals in one Olympics),' he said.

'But now the focus for me is the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.'

There were no major surprises on day one of competition in Pitesti, raced in almost perfect conditions.

Belgium's Artuur Peters was fastest qualifier for the men's U23 K1 1,000 while Australia's Alyssa Bull was fastest qualifier in the women's K1 1,000.

The rivalry between Hungary's Virag Balla and Alena Nazdrova of Belarus in the C1 500 would create another chapter on Saturday after both comfortably qualified for the U23 final.

Nazdrova defeated Balla at the World Cup event in Belgrade but