

Broughton takes kayak 1km win

Duisburg Regatta

The German sprint team flexed their muscles on Friday, winning two of the three gold medals on offer at the World Cup in Duisburg. Germany welcomed back their gun athletes after nearly all of their Olympians sat out the opening World Cup in Szeged one week earlier. Three of their four winners on Friday were Olympic gold medallists. Great Britain's Lizzie Broughton won the K1 1,000. Yul Oeltze and Peter Kretschmer, the reigning C2 1,000 world champions, showed their form has held up with a big win over a strong field in Duisburg. 'This is really impressive for us,' Oeltze said. 'It's our home venue, it was a good race and we had a lot of fun.' Kretschmer, a 2012 K2 Olympic gold medallist, said competing at home was nerve racking. 'For sure. After the winter, you always try to figure out where you are, so we're happy it worked out for us,' he said. 'It's hard to see where everyone else is. We can see the lanes next to us but that is all.' Max Hoff and Marcus Gross were part of Germany's K4 1,000 gold medal team at the Rio Olympics; it was the K2 1,000 which bought them glory. Hoff, 35, who admitted he had considered retiring 12 months earlier, said the World Cup win was a great confidence boost. 'It's so cool and this regatta course is just 20 kilometres away from my flat so it's totally special,' he said. 'Last season with Marcus we had a lot of ups and downs so we are really happy to start like this. I'm at an age where you have to think about stopping paddling and for sure I was thinking about it last year quite a lot but I love the sport and I love to be out on the water; now we'll see what happens.'

Gross, who also took Olympic gold in the K2 in Rio, said he and Hoff have some unfinished business after missing a medal at last year's world championships. 'Last year we had lots of good sessions and we knew we could do it much better than we showed in the world championships,' Gross said. 'That was difficult for us, to end the season with that bad race, because we knew we could do better.'

Great Britain's Broughton has made a name for herself as a marathon paddler but has relished the opportunity to race shorter distances at the opening two World Cups. She took silver in the K1 5,000 in Szeged, before taking gold in the K1 1,000 on Friday. 'The 1,000 certainly seems short compared to a marathon,' Broughton said. 'I've done all our marathon trials back home and I've been doing a bit more sprint training than normal alongside that in preparation for this. World Cup gold medallist sounds pretty good.'

There were more gold medals for Germany, a new world's best time

for Canada's powerhouse C2 team and Czech Martin Fuksa triumphed in a world championship C1 rematch on day two. Max Rendschmidt in the K1 1,000 and Yul Oeltze and Peter Kretschmer once again in the C2 brought the home crowd to life in perfect racing conditions. The very knowledgeable crowd also witnessed Canada's Laurence Vincent-Lapointe and Katie Vincent once again lower the world's fastest ever time in the C2 500 and world champions Lisa Carrington and Caitlin Ryan again stamping their authority on the K2 500. Sweden's Linnea Stensils broke through for a maiden K1 500 World Cup win, Hungary's Levente Apagyí and Kolos Csizmadia won the men's K2 200, Slovakia's Peter Gelle and Adam Botek broke through to win the K2 500, and China's Wenjun Lin and Luqi Zhang won the C2 200. The C1 1,000 match up between Fuksa, Germany's world and Olympic champion Sebastian Brendel and Brazilian Olympic silver medallist Isaquias Dos Santos was one of the most eagerly anticipated races of the weekend but Fuksa, a winner at the previous week's opening World Cup in Szeged, took the race out hard and had the gold medal sown up well before the finish line, despite the passionate home town support for triple Olympic gold medallist Brendel. 'I had a lot of power and a lot of strength so I knew I would be winning with 200 metres to go,' Fuksa said. 'But these are World Cups. I have been focused on this but now I have two weeks until the European Cup so I hope it will be a good race like this.' Dos Santos finished 2nd and Brendel 3rd but the German crowd had plenty more to keep them happy, including the K1 1,000 gold to Rendschmidt.

'Last year I wasn't so good in the K1 so I'm very happy that today I could change it,' Rendschmidt said. 'I think in the European championships and the world championships I can do both the K1 and the K4. The last two weeks we trained a little bit in the K4 but K1 is a very important boat so I'm happy I could win here.' Germany's second gold medal on Saturday went to the C2 pairing of Oeltze and Kretschmer, who followed their C2 1,000 win from Friday with victory in the C2 500. 'It was really satisfying yesterday so this race was really a bonus, the cherry on the cake. This was really satisfying,' Kretschmer said.

'We don't do a lot of training for 500,' Oeltze said. 'In fact, this was our first 500 competition together and the first time we paddled at 100 per cent for the 500.'

Carrington and Ryan, world K2 500 champions in 2017, took a break in Szeged but were back together in Duisburg and showing they



C2 winners Yul Oeltze and Peter Kretschmer.



Martin Fuksa in C1.



Locals Max Hoff and Marcus Gross win the K2 1km.



Vincent-Lapointe and Vincent both paddling on the left.