



The women's K1 500m title went to Danuta Kozák.



Max Hoff and Marcus Gross, K2 1km winners.



Lisa Carrington was fastest over 200m.

championships and had been the centre of media attention in the lead up to the event. After charging out of the start line, 29 year old Pimenta eased off in the final stages to cruise through to the semi finals. He said the expectation was not affecting him at all. 'I don't feel the pressure at all; it is normal,' Pimenta said. 'I have been competing in competition since 2005 when I was 15 years old and we live for this but this is special because I have my family, my friends, my sponsors and my team mates. It's good for me and it's good for my career.'

Kozák made her long anticipated return to racing with a strong K1 500 heat win. The Hungarian won three gold medals at the Rio Olympics but took time off to have a baby. 'I'm feeling good. I like racing and I've missed it,' Kozák said. 'I had one year off and I really liked it but it is good to be back.'

Max Hoff and Marcus Gross were looking to make a statement after missing a K2 1,000 medal at last year's world championships and

impressed in Thursday's heats. 'This morning I was nervous again. I am like a little boy,' veteran Hoff said. 'Marcus is always laughing at me but now I'm in the race and I feel like I am getting better.'

Carrington and Ryan got an early win over Hungarian rivals Anna Kárász and Danuta Kozák in what was looming as one of the great races of the championships. 'I think it is so exciting to be able to race Danuta and Anna but it is just a heat and it was top three through so we really just wanted to make top three so we don't have to do the semi,' Carrington said. 'We've got a busy week so we just want to cut the races down where we can so we're pretty happy.'

Traditionally, Sebastian Brendel saves his best racing for the biggest events and, after having his colours lowered at this year's Duisburg World Cup, he was out to hold onto his world title. 'We've had a long time training after the European championships and I think we have a good time in us now,' he said. 'I hope I can bring my best this weekend. We will see this weekend how it goes.'

Vincent-Lapointe had already proven herself the best female canoe paddler on the planet and now set her sights on lowering the world record she already held whenever she went onto the water. A strong headwind on Thursday prevented her from setting a new record but she was still comfortable with her performance. 'I was strong throughout, from the beginning to the finish so, even though there was a very strong headwind, I think I did a very good race,' she said. 'You feel when you think you have done everything you could do it's like an exam; you feel you've done all the training, all the studying you could do for the race, and that's what I feel right now so I could not be more excited to race here this weekend.'

There was double gold for Ukraine and another world title for Australia's Curtis McGrath on day three. The 2016 Rio Paralympic gold medallist Serhii Yemelianov successfully defended his KL3 200 world title, finishing ahead of Brazil's Caio Carvalho and Russia's Leonid Krylov. 'This is a great result for me,' Yemelianov said. 'Now we can look ahead for Tokyo.' It was the first time on the top of the podium for Ukrainian team mate Maryna Mazhula, victorious in the women's KL1 200. Mazhula finished ahead of Italy's Eleonor De Paolis and



Curtis McGrath won men's K1 L2.