



*K1 L3 winner Serhii Yemelianov.*



*Igor Tofalini took his first world title.*

Great Britain's Jeanette Chippington, the defending world and Olympic champion.

Curtis McGrath took another KL2 world championship gold, his time of 41.735 quicker than the times he set winning last year's world title and the 2016 Paralympic gold medal. The Australian said he had been dealing with a lot of distractions this year so was uncertain how he would perform in the final. 'That was pretty tough but we had really great conditions and I was pushed all the way,' McGrath said. 'The competition is really heating up; it's two years tomorrow until the Paralympic Games so it's exciting. Momentum is building for the games. It's definitely been difficult. I had a good prep for this competition; thankfully I did enough, just.' McGrath finished just ahead of the rapidly improving New Zealander Scott Marlew with another Ukrainian, Mykola Syniuk, 3rd.

Two years from the Tokyo Olympics Germany already sent out a warning to the rest of the canoe sprint world, winning both K2 and C2 1,000 metre. Yul Oeltze and Peter Kretschmer did something which hasn't been done for almost two decades, successfully defended a C2 1,000 world title, and Marcus Gross and Max Hoff bounced back from the disappointment of missing a medal at last year's world championships to win the K2 1,000. In other results, Czech Josef Dostál successfully defended his K1 500 world title, Hungary's Dóra Bodonyi won the women's K1 1,000 and Hleb Saladukha and Dzianis Makhlai won Belarus' first ever C2 200 title. Brazil's Isaquias Dos Santos, Sebastian Brendel and Martin Fuksa warmed up for their C1 1,000 duel at the weekend by finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the C1 500. Russian Kseniia Kurach upset Belarus' Alena Nazdrova and Canada's Katie Vincent to win the C1 500 while Hungary's Tamara Csipes-Galbacs and Erika Medvec won the women's K2 1,000 but Germany provided the highlights in the only two Olympic events contested on Friday. 'Every time you win it's a great feeling and when the win is a little bit of history it's even more exciting,' Kretschmer said.

'It's a good feeling that we are such a good team; we know we can go very fast and for now we are just happy to have won the race,' Oeltze said.

Max Hoff and Marcus Gross could not hide their disappointment after missing the K2 1,000 podium at the 2017 world championships. They left nothing to chance on Friday, leading from the start and powering to the finish ahead of Spain's Francisco Cubelos and Inigo Pena, with defending world champions Marko Tomicevic and Milenko



*Yul Oeltze and Peter Kretschmer retained their C2 1km title.*

Zoric of Serbia finishing 3rd. 'Last year was a bad day I think because we had fast times but we weren't able to show it on the day,' Gross said. 'Today we showed we were able to do it again. Every time you go on the start line and paddle again, the fire inside the belly burns to win again.'

Tears flowed freely as three more world titles were decided on the final day with Curtis McGrath winning his second title for the week, Emma Wiggs overcoming enormous pain for her gold and Brazil's Igor Tofalini winning his first ever world title. Wiggs fought through the pain of a badly injured wrist to win the women's VL2, one of the three new Paralympic events contested on Saturday, but the Brit, who lost her KL2 world crown to team mate Charlotte Henshaw earlier in the week, was playing down the significance of her injury. 'I'm just proud to have sat on the start line and delivered the best I possibly could and today that was good enough for gold,' Wiggs said. 'It's really irrelevant, injuries. If you line up on the start line then you are there to race with whatever you've got. Obviously the silver medal was disappointing; everyone wants to lay down their best and hope that's good enough to win but I can't really be unhappy; it helps that it's my team mate on the top spot.'

McGrath picked up his second gold medal in as many days and the eighth of his career when he triumphed in the men's VL3. McGrath raced in an eye catching new boat which measured considerably shorter than other boats in the field. 'It's pretty good,' McGrath said. 'It's a metre and a half shorter than everyone else's boat here so it's a very different shape. I think there are a few little tweaks I'd like to see before Tokyo but it looks good in the water and it's doing the job for me. It's nice to be able to do two boats; it keeps it stimulating and exciting at the same time.' The most emotional of all Saturday's Paracanoe gold medallists was Igor Tofalini who overcame his team mate Luis Silva to win the VL2, his first ever world title. The former rodeo rider gave Brazil their first gold medal in the Paracanoe events in Montemor-o-Velho.

Three time Olympic champion Danuta Kozák made a triumphant return to top level racing but Fernando Pimenta stole the day when he thrilled a capacity home crowd to snatch the K1 1,000 crown. While Kozák reminded the canoe sprint world of her class with two gold medals it was the win for Pimenta which sent the crowd into raptures and created history for Portuguese canoe racing. His win also overshadowed world class performances by five time Olympic champion Sebastian Brendel and by red hot women's C1 Olympic favourite Laurence Vincent-Lapointe. Pimenta arrived at Montemor-o-Velho carrying the hopes of the nation but shrugged off the pressure to become the first Portuguese athlete to win a world title in an Olympic class event. 'I don't believe it. I can feel my legs failing,' Pimenta said. 'It's such a crazy moment. I think maybe next week I will believe this moment has happened. I slept for nine hours last night because I was so relaxed. I know that this is such an important result for Portugal, a good start for us for the next season.' Pimenta started slowly but took control over the middle stages of the race to beat Germany's Max Rendschmidt and Czech Olympic silver medallist Josef Dostál.

Any question marks over Danuta Kozák's form on her long awaited return to top level paddling were quickly dispelled on Saturday with the Hungarian overpowering Lisa Carrington and reigning world champion Volha Khudzenka of Belarus to take the women's K1 500 crown. 'It's very hard to get to the top of the world; it takes a lot of training, very hard training,' Kozák said. 'I am not the sort of person who feels confidence. I always feel nervous so I am happy to get a win.' Kozák teamed up later in the day with Anna Kárász to win the K2 500, pipping Carrington and Caitlin Ryan at the finish line to win by just 0.023 of a second.