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Sprint

Szeged Regatta

Hungary ended Germany's kayak four 500m winning streak while home favourite Balint Kopasz denied South Africa's Hamish Lovemore a shock victory at the World Cup in Szeged.



Germany had been undefeated for almost two years in the men's K4 500m, securing the world title in 2023 before capturing back to back World Cup crowns and sealing Olympic gold in 2024 but the German team's run came to an end as Hungary's new look quartet of Mark Opavszky, Bence Fodor, Gergely Balogh and Zsombor Akos Tamasi triumphed by just 0.21.

It was nip and tuck all the way with Hungary winning in 1:20.32, beating the German crew of Max Rendschmidt, Max Lenke, Jacob Schopf and Anton Winkelmann, who clocked 1:20.53 for second.

There was another Hungarian team on the podium as Bence Nadas, Zalan Imre Hidvegi, Hunor Tamas Hidvegi and Gergo Zoltan Keller sealed bronze in 1:20.55.

'We are so happy,' said Balogh.

'This is a new K4 in this formation. We just got together last week.

'It is a total surprise for everybody and for all of us so we are very happy.

'We are quite young so this gives us a lot of benefits and we can focus on our other goals. It gives us a lot of motivation.'

South Africa's Lovemore came within a whisker of pulling off a sensational win in the men's kayak single 1,000m final.

It was a top class field that featured six of the eight Olympic finalists, including Paris 2024 champion Josef Dostal of Czechia, but it was Lovemore that surprised them all and almost emerged victorious, pushing Kopasz all the way.

Kopasz, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist, won in 3:29.65, edging Lovemore, who took silver in 3:29.82, while a late surge from Dostal saw the Czech seal bronze in 3:32.10.

'It was a great race for me,' said Kopasz. 'I am very satisfied with my form and it was a cutting edge performance.'

'I saw the South African racer going very hard but I also went maximum speed in the last 150m so I am very happy to win this race.'

'I really love racing in Hungary in front of my family and friends. It's one of the best courses and was a really good experience for us.'

Serbia's Strahinja Dragosavljevic was inspired by Superman as he shared top spot with reigning world champion Messias Baptista of Portugal in a gripping men's kayak single 200m final in Szeged.

Wearing his lucky T shirt emblazoned with the Superman logo on his chest, Dragosavljevic flew down the Hungarian course to seal his first World Cup title.

Dragosavljevic was joined at the top of the podium by Baptista after they both finished in a time of 34.66.

'It was a crazy feeling,' said Dragosavljevic.

'In the K1 200m final last year I was eighth so to have this close race and share the gold medal is a really great feeling.'

Dragosavljevic said his decision to wear his Superman T shirt came after his experience at the 2023 Junior and U23 world championships.

'During the race the announcer was saying "Superman in lane number five is going well"' said Dragosavljevic.

'I liked it so whenever I'm in the A final I wear this T shirt and now it is my lucky charm.'

With Dragosavljevic and Baptista crossing the finish line together, Spain's Carlos Arevalo followed in 34.79 to take bronze.

Among the other non Olympic event finals there was success for the likes of Brazil's Isaquias Guimaraes Queiroz, New Zealand's Aimee Fisher and Canada's Katie Vincent.

After crashing out of the men's canoe single 1,000m the previous day, Brazil's Guimaraes Queiroz returned to top form to clinch the men's C1 500m title.

Individual Neutral Athlete Zakhar Petrov set the early pace before being overhauled by Guimaraes Queiroz who sealed gold in 1:47.80. Petrov achieved silver in 1:48.34 with Romania's Catalin Chirila coming third in 1:48.51. 'It was a difficult race as there were many strong competitors but my feeling was very good and I finished first' said Guimaraes Queiroz.

'I am more relaxed for this Olympic cycle and it's important to get a medal in the 500m as it starts the preparations for Los Angeles 2028.'

Making her first appearance on the international stage in the women's K1 1,000m, Fisher emerged victorious.

Fisher, who usually focuses on 500m events, tussled with Hungary's Zsoka Csikos before finding an extra gear.

The New Zealander took the win in 3:55.89 with Csikos earning silver in 3:57.22 and compatriot Eszter Julia Rendessy finishing strongly to clinch bronze in 3:58.71.

'That was my debut racing 1,000m internationally so I wasn't really sure what I was in for today,' said Fisher.

'It was an epic race and I am really happy with how it went.

'It's been a bit hit and miss and it's been a very slow build up getting back up to speed.

'I am still trying to focus on the 500m and trying to do the 1,000m based on that training.'

A margin of 0.12 separated the top two in the men's C1 200m final as China's Yuebin Yu got the edge over Spain's Pablo Grana.

Yu earned gold in 39.12 as Grana picked up silver in 39.24 and AIN paddler Ivan Shtyl grabbed bronze in 39.40.

Canada's Vincent proved too strong for China's Yanan Ma as she claimed the women's C1 500m title.

The Olympic champion in 200m was victorious in 2:05.43 as Ma came second in 2:06.24 and Spain's Maria Corbera bagged bronze in 2:09.14.

'I am really happy with that,' said Vincent.

'It was a tough wind out there but I stuck to my race plan.

'It was a competitive final so there were moments when I had to stay calm and wait for the right moment to bring it home.'

Poland's Sylwia Szczerbinska and Dorota Borowska saw off Hungarian pair Agnes Anna Kiss and Bianka Nagy to secure women's C2 200m gold.

The Polish duo won in 44.10, edging Kiss and Nagy by 0.30 as AIN paddlers Marina Gureeva and Ekaterina Shliapnikova came third in 44.47.

The last final of the day saw the AIN team of Dmitrii Sharov, Mikhail Pavlov, Alexey Korovashkov and Matvei Arsenov triumph in the men's C4 500m final.

They defeated two Hungarian crews with Domonlos Buday, David Hodovan, Jonatan Daniel Hajdu and David Uhrin taking silver and Mate Kurczina and Gergely Istvan Lugosi and Milan Meszaros and Iliasz Mitropoulos collecting bronze.

ICF

200m: K1W: 1 A Pulawska, Polska, 43.53. 2 N Drobot, Australia, 43.98.

3 N Wang, Zhongguo, 44.28.

C1M: 1 S Dragosavljevic, Srbija, 34.66. 2 M Baptista, Portugal, 34.66. 3 C Arevalo, España, 34.79.

K1W: 1 V Yarchevska, España, 49.02. 2 E Shliapnikova, 49.83. 3 K Szperkiewicz, Polska, 49.92.

500m: K1W: 1 A Pulawska, Polska, 1:50.77. 2 N Wang, Zhongguo, 1:51.51.

3 N Drobot, Australia, 1:51.54.

K1M: 1 A Varga, Magyarország, 1:44.67. 2 A Graner, España, 1:44.94.

3 J Dostal, Czechia, 1:45.17.

C1W: 1 K Vincent, Canada, 2:05.43. 2 Y Ma, Zhongguo, 2:06.24. 3 M Corbera, España, 2:09.14.

C1M: 1 V Guimaraes Queiroz, Brasil, 1:47.80. 2 Z Petrov, 1:48.34. 3 C Chirila, România, 1:48.51.

14 T Lambert, GB, 1:54.74.

K2W: 1 Klatt/Ostrowska, Polska, 1:48.86. 2 Matthiesen/Milthers, Danmark, 1:49.18.

3 Pupp/Fojt, Magyarország, 1:50.11.

K4W: 1 España, 1:33.80. 2 Magyarország, 1:34.59. 3 Deutschland, 1:34.93. 13 GB, 1:37.80.

1km: K1W: 1 A Fisher, NZ, 3:55.89. 2 Z Csikos, Magyarország, 3:57.22.

3 E Rendessy, Magyarország, 3:58.71.

K1M: 1 B Kopasz, Magyarország, 3:29.65. 2 H Lovemore, SA, 3:29.82.

3 J Dostal, Czechia, 3:32.10.

5km: K1W: 1 M Andersson, 23:23.00. 2 E Kohalmi, Magyarország, 24:08.38.

3 E Rendessy, Magyarország, 24:09.04. 11 Z Clark, GB, 25:36.70.

C1W: 1 Z Csorba, Magyarország, 28:11.39. 2 M Corbera, España, 28:33.18.

3 B Zagyi, Magyarország, 29:22.59.



Hungary.



Kopasz.



Guimaraes Queiroz.