



Camille Prigent.



Felix Oschmautz.



Jessica Fox.

Clarke and Woods eliminated early

Augsburg Slalom

A day of high drama in the rain in Augsburg saw two first time winners crowned as the 2024 World Cup season got underway.

French paddler Camille Prigent delivered one of the best K1 runs of her career to snatch gold in the women's final while a late 50 second penalty delivered gold to Austrian Felix Oschmautz in the men's K1 final.

Prigent had already shown she was in top form by setting the fastest qualifying time in the semi finals but faced a big challenge in the final when the reigning Olympic gold medallist, Germany's Ricarda Funk, posted the fastest time of the day.

Prigent withstood the pressure to post an error free run in a time just point zero four of a second quicker than Funk.

'I'm super happy to have won my first World Cup gold but I felt really nervous,' Prigent said.

'I just wanted to have a solid run; the results didn't really matter. I was thinking my semi final was really solid so if I could do that again I would go close.'

A gate touch and two second penalty robbed Funk of the gold while Brazil's Ana Satila finished third. Australia's reigning world champion, Jessica Fox, missed a gate and had to paddle back to correct her mistake before eventually finishing ninth.

The men's final was riddled with mistakes with only one paddler able to complete the course without penalties.

There was high drama when the final paddler on the course, Italian Giovanni de Gennaro, posted the quickest run, only to be handed a late 50 second penalty for missing a gate.

It left Oschmautz in the gold medal position.

'This is a bit awkward,' Oschmautz said, 'but I'm super happy to win my first World Cup gold. I have lots of other medals from different events but this is my first senior World Cup gold.'

New Zealand's Finn Butcher, who was the first paddler on the course, watched as every other paddler ran into trouble. He eventually finished second with veteran Peter Kauzer of Slovenia taking bronze.

Teenage sensation Ziga Lin Hocevar caused a major boilover while Olympic champion Jessica Fox issued a timely reminder of her class.

At just 16 years old, Slovenia's Hocevar arrived in the German city as the European champion and showed he was in good form by making the final of the men's kayak event on the Friday but it was nothing compared with his error free run in the canoe final, setting a time that nobody else could match.

'It's incredible. I am lost for words,' Hocevar said.

'Most athletes work for their entire life to maybe win a World Cup gold and I am so lucky to have done it at just 16. Last night I was so focussed and motivated and then today I posted a time that was even faster than yesterday's kayak final.

'I was really nervous; this is something I have been dreaming about since the first time I saw my sister paddling in a World Cup.'

Slovakia's Marko Mirgorodsky took the silver while Frenchman Nicolas Gestin posted the fastest raw time in the final but a gate touch

and two second penalty saw him drop to third place.

Australia's Fox bounced back from a disappointing K1 final on the Friday and a scratchy C1 semi final which saw her only just scrape into the final to take gold by more than eight seconds.

She picked up an early

gate touch but put together a perfect run for the rest to take the first World Cup win of the season.

'I'm just so relieved to finally put down a good run,' Fox said.

'It's been a tough weekend; it's been wet and harsh. I've been trying to manage the nerves that come with the first World Cup of the season but now I'm thrilled to be back on the podium and to be on the top step.

'It was a tough course. Augsburg is always challenging so I just really had to keep it together.'

Spain's Nuria Vilarrubla picked up the silver with Andorra's Monica Doria taking the bronze.

Slovenia's Eva Tercelj and France's Mathurin Madore both broke through for their first kayak cross gold medals on an action packed day of racing on the Sunday.

On a day when many of the biggest names in world kayak cross, including British world champions Joe Clarke and Kimberley Woods and Jessica Fox, were eliminated early it was Tercelj and Madore who held their nerve to take victories.

Tercelj went into Sunday's competition as the world bronze medallist and got a clear start while her three competitors got caught up jostling for position.

'I had an easy start compared to everyone else so I just knew I needed to keep pushing,' Tercelj said.

'It's my first ever World Cup win so I'm super happy. You just never know what to expect in kayak cross.

Camille Prigent repeated her silver medal performance from last year's world championships while American Evy Leibfarth took the bronze.

In the men's competition Madore looked to be out of the race when he accidentally flipped his kayak shortly after the start of the final but the Frenchman kept his composure and was able to capitalize on mistakes made by his opponents to take the lead in the second half of the race.

'My start was very messy, not just in the final but all day,' Madore said.

'I found it very hard to get to first place early but I also knew that there would be opportunities to make up positions later in the race.

'When I saw the two race leaders go to the same side of the course I knew then that there would be a possibility they would get in each other's way. Next I was in the lead.'

Switzerland's Dimitri Marx took silver with Finn Butcher the bronze.

ICF



Eva Tercelj.



Mathurin Madore.



Ziga Lin Hocevar.

K1W: 1 C Prigent, France, 106.41. 2 R Funk, Deutschland, 106.45. 3 A Satila, Brasil, 108.79. 6 K Woods, GB, 112.49. 19 M Franklin, GB.

K1M: 1 F Oschmautz, Österreich, 101.66. 2 F Butcher, NZ, 102.26. 3 P Kauzer, Slovenija, 102.69. 20 J Dickson, GB.

C1W: 1 J Fox, Australia, 110.68. 2 N Vilarrubla, España, 118.73. 3 M Doria, Andorra, 119.19. 6 E Miller, GB, 126.81. 19 M Franklin, GB.

C1M: 1 Z Hocevar, Slovenija, 101.57. 2 M Mirgorodsky, Slovensko, 101.84.

3 N Gestin, France, 103.09. 10 A Burgess, GB, 111.27. 14 R Westley, GB.

K1WX: 1 E Tercelj, Slovenija. 2 C Prigent, France. 3 E Leibfarth, USA.

K1MX: 1 M Madore, France. 2 D Marx, Schweiz. 3 F Butcher, NZ.