



Czech C1 team.



Ziga Lin Hocevar.



Manuel Tripiano.

It happened so fast for Leaver

World J/U23 Championships

France and Czechia got off to a superb start in Liptovsky Mikulas with three gold medals each on a day of team events at the junior and under 23 world championships.

It was an action packed opening day at the Slovakian venue as paddlers worked together to achieve success for their respective nations.

France's first success came in the U23 men's kayak where Leo Vuitton, Anatole Delassus and Edgar Paleau-Brasseur triumphed in 88.09.

The trio defeated Great Britain by 0.51 while Italy crossed in 90.07 for bronze.

There was delight for France in the next event as Martin Cornu, Elouan Debliqy and Titouan Estanguet won the junior men's kayak in 90.69 despite receiving a two second penalty.

Italy took silver with Germany completing the podium in third.

France completed their hat trick when Cornu, Debliqy and Estanguet combined again to clinch the men's canoe junior title in 96.58.

Germany were the silver medallists while Czechia bagged bronze.

Czechia also celebrated three gold medals with their first coming in the women's kayak junior event.

Bara Galuskova, Marketa Hojdova and Klara Mrazkova produced a clean run of 101.98 to seal top spot.

Germany and France picked up the respective silver and bronze medals.

Czechia came out on top in the men's canoe U23 after finishing in a winning time of 92.92.

Adam Kral and Martin and Lukas Kratochvil were the gold medallists while Slovenia took silver and France claimed bronze.

Czechia's third and final gold came in the junior women's canoe when Valentyna Kocirova, Marketa Stepankova and Natalie Erlova clocked 116.86 to take the title.

France secured silver with Germany sealing bronze.

Czechia thought they had another win when Tereza and Klara Kneblova and Gabriela Satkova posted what appeared to be a winning time, only to be hit with a 50 second penalty in the U23 women's canoe final.

This meant that Italy's Marta Bertinocelli, Elena Micozzi and Elena Borghi took the glory in 110.90 while the German team clinched silver and Spain earned bronze.



'We have raced so many times together so we were confident and this is amazing,' said Borghi.

'I am happy as this is the last under 23 event for Marta so it is a great way to finish.

Bertinocelli added 'It's really nice to start the competition like this for the individual races so all three of us will be confident of getting another medal.'

Germany were also victorious, winning the opening final in the U23 women's kayak in a time of 99.67.

Antonia and Annkatrin Plochmann and Emily Apel were crowned champions despite receiving two two second penalties.

France and Czechia claimed the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Ting Yang made history with a stunning victory.

It was a huge moment for China as the Asian nation had never previously achieved a gold medal at any slalom world championships.

Slovenia's Ziga Lin Hocevar retained the junior men's canoe crown while Anatole Delassus and Great Britain's Lois Leaver won the respective men's and women's kayak U23 gold medals.

Yang produced a superb performance to seal the women's C1 junior title in 112.84 seconds, emerging victorious by 0.68.

'It's really exciting and I am very proud,' said Yang.

'I am excited that I am getting better and better.'

France's Lena Quemerais was the silver medallist with Valentyna Kocirova claiming bronze.

There were no surprises in the men's canoe junior final as Hocevar triumphed by eight seconds to retain his crown.

Hocevar was a class above the rest of the field as he cruised to victory in 92.45 with an impeccable performance.

It is another title to a sensational season for Hocevar, having become senior European champion and won his first World Cup in the men's C1.

'It is incredible, really unbelievable to be back to back world champion,' said Hocevar.

'It is something that I have been dreaming about.

'Not a lot of people have done it before so to win by eight seconds is incredible.

'Of course, every time you can do better but I think it was almost a perfect run.'

Martin Cornu and Germany's Niels Zimmermann clinched silver and bronze respectively.



Ting Yang.



Emma Vuitton.

ICF/Damiano Benedetto photographs