

Bowers placed 16th.

Maialen Chourraut.

Jiri Prskavec.

Franklin and Clarke win cross

La Seu d'Urgell Slalom

Olympic champions Maialen Chourraut and Jiri Prskavec reminded the paddling world of their class by winning the kayaks at the World Cup final in Spain.

Spanish paddler Chourraut, 41, made the most of her local course knowledge to edge out Slovenia's Eva Tercelj and American Evy Leibfarth for the K1 in La Seu.

It was her first World Cup gold since 2017, a year after she won at the Olympics in Rio.

'I just wanted to go out and do my best, to be myself,' said Chourraut. 'I'm just so grateful for all the slalom family and all the paddlers and the crowd.

'It was a pleasure to be in La Seu and to do my best at the end of a long season.'

Prskavec saved his best until last after a year in which he struggled to recapture the form that took him to gold at Tokyo 2020 and won him the overall World Cup title in 2023.

The Czech had struggled in finals throughout 2024, including at the Olympics, where he finished eighth, but he said the win in La Seu would give him confidence going into the off season.

'I'm truly happy to have broken through,' said Prskavec.

'Since the beginning of the season I didn't have many good runs in finals, so winning the last race of the season will give me motivation for training over the winter.

'I didn't have a lot of training after the Olympics but I'm glad to win here on a course where I have had some great results, including a world title.'

Brazil's Mathieu Desnos celebrated making his first senior final by







taking the silver while Paris 2024 Olympic gold medallist Giovanni De Gennaro of Italy took the bronze.

In the final overall World Cup standings Germany's Ricarda Funk was crowned the winner of the women's title, adding to the crowns she won in 2016 and 2017. France's Emma Vuitton finished second and Australia's Olympic champion, Jessica Fox,

third.

In the men's competition Frenchman Anatole Delassus was rewarded for not missing a final all season by being crowned overall K1 champion, edging out De Gennaro with 41 year old Peter Kauzer of Slovenia finishing third.

Australia's Jessica Fox won an incredible 33rd World Cup title in the women's canoe and seventh overall crown on a dramatic day.

Hometown fans celebrated another gold with Miquel Trave winning the men's C1 while Slovakia's Matej Benus wrapped up his fourth overall World Cup title and his first since 2019.

Fox bounced back after missing the podium in the women's kayak on the Friday to storm to victory in the C1 final.

The dual Paris 2024 gold medallist, who had won back to back Olympic classes in C1, returned to her best form to snatch victory by just 0.11 of a second.

'I'm so happy with my run. I had to work really hard,' said Fox.

'It's been a great season, so special every time you put down a great run.

'I didn't race at Ivrea so I knew I had to have a good race today.

'Yesterday was a hard day.

'It's always a bit of a challenge to come back after the Olympics, trying to find the hunger and motivation.



Miquel Trave.



Kimberley Woods.

CANOEIST November 2024

Ryan Westley.