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Fox proves there can be certainties in sport

There are but very few certainties in life; night certainly follows day, English football fans get overexcited, and Jessica Fox will win canoe slalom gold.

The pundits will tell you there can never be certainties in sport, but when Jessica Fox won her sixth consecutive canoe slalom gold medal on Sunday, she asserted herself as the closest thing to a sure thing sport can deliver.

Such is the Australian's confidence at the moment, she even afforded herself a smile as she clanked into the final gate on the Augsburg course: It's not cockiness, but a belief in where she is in her paddling at the moment, and what she is capable of. Competitors are left looking on in awe, with a look of rabbits staring into a blazing spotlight. Tokyo 2020 is still a long way off, but after a K1 silver and bronze at the past two Olympics, and with the debut of C1 at the next Games, Fox is already eyeing of the prospect of making history.

Even with a two second penalty for a gate touch Fox was able to finish 4.50 seconds ahead of current World Champion Mallory Franklin, of Great Britain, with Brazil's Ana Satila third. „I love this course, and I've had an amazing weekend,” Fox said. „It's been an amazing three weeks and I'm so thrilled with that last race. I really, really attacked it, I hit the last gate but I think the rest of my run was almost perfect.”

Another eagerly awaiting Tokyo is three-time Olympian Peter Kauzer, of Slovenia. He served a timely reminder of what he is capable of in the men's K1, with a stirring victory on the tricky 1072 Olympic course.

Kauzer also picked up a two-second penalty, but was still fast enough to sneak home ahead of Czech Jiri Prskavec in 94.86 seconds. Prskavec also had a gate touch to record a time of 95.10, while Germany's Hannes Aigner was third in 95.79. „It was quite tight, because I did a stupid touch on gate 11,” Kauzer said. „I felt really comfortable in the boat all week long. It's just like the old school of paddling here, a little bit of the mixture of the old and the new school. „I think I had a really fast bottom part of the course, so when I came to the finish I was really happy.”

The ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup season takes a break until the end of August, when competition will resume at Tacen, Slovenia.

RESULTS

WOMEN'S C1

1. FOX Jessica (AUS) 111.15 (2)
2. FRANKLIN Mallory (GBR) 115.65
3. SATILA Ana (BRA) 115.79



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MEN'S K1

1. KAUZER Peter (SLO) 94.86 (2)
2. PRSKAVEC Jiri (CZE) 95.10 (2)
3. AIGNER Hannes (GER) 95.79

<https://www.kanu-schwaben-augsburg.de/icf-welt-cup-kanu-slalom.html>

<https://www.canoeicf.com/canoe-slalom-world-cup/augsburg-2018>

