



2018 ICF Wildwater World Championships

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*For immediate release*

## **French and Czech success mark first day of Wildwater Canoeing World Championships**

**Muotathal, Switzerland, 31 May 2018** – Day one of the International Canoe Federation World Wildwater Championships saw thrills, spills and excitement in equal measure.

There were huge celebrations for the Czech Republic, whose paddlers won both the Women's single kayak and the Men's single canoe.

Martina Satkova finished an astounding 17 seconds clear of the rest of the field in her race while Rolenc Ondrej beat off stiff competition from Frenchman Louis Lapointe and his fellow Czech Marek Rygel. In the men's kayak France won silver and bronze through Paul Jean and Paul Graton in second and third, respectively, while Simon Oven of Slovenia took the gold medal in a field of 60 paddlers.

There was local success for Soluturner Melanie Mathys who was third in the women's kayak while 18 year old Hannah Müller, competing in her first senior World Championship competition, finished comfortably inside the top ten, an amazing result for a first-year senior.

The capacity crowd in the remote mountain town of Muotathal, which has vigorously embraced the first canoeing World Championships to be held in Switzerland since 1973, cheered on local kayaker 19 year old Linus Bolzern. The junior world championship silver medalist from 2017 finished an astounding 12<sup>th</sup> in the 60-strong mens kayak field, making it the best individual Swiss male result for more than 10 years.

Fresh from his school exams, Bolzern said he had not had the luxury to get stressed about the competition beforehand: "I did not even have to think about the World Cup during the exam. Maybe the distraction was good, because I managed a perfect ride."

In the Ladies canoe, Sabine Eichenberger was the talk of the town. The 50-year-old veteran finished in fifth place in the elite class - just under six seconds behind the bronze medal position. She has already announced that she will retire from competitive canoeing after the World Cup. She has one more chance to finish her successful career with a medal in the team race on Friday – racing in kayak, she starts with Müller and Mathys over the classic 4.3km race.

### **Headline results:**

(Full results can be found at: <http://www.wm-muota2018.ch/en/results-news/>)

### **Mens**

#### **Single canoe (C1)**

1. Ondrej Rolenc (CZE) 13:00.57



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2. Louis Lapointe (FRA) 13:09.63
  3. Marek Rygel (CZE) 13:16.11
- Best Swiss results: 15. Fabio Gretener (SUI) 13:32.58, 20. Benjamin Müller (SUI) 13:52.88, 21. Jonah Müller (SUI) 13:59.92

**Single kayak (K1)**

1. Simon Oven (SLO) 11:56.93
  2. Paul Jean (FRA) 12:01.11
  3. Paul Graton (FRA) 12:03.73
- Best Swiss results: 12. Linus Bolzern (SUI) 12:24.10, 17. Nico Meier (SUI) 12:28.68, 31. Robin Häfeli (SUI) 12:48.02, 38. Cornel Bretscher (SUI) 12:57.30

**Ladies**

**Single canoe (C1)**

1. Martina Satkova (CZE) 13:45.37
  2. Cecilia Panato (ITA) 13:57.15
  3. Maren Lutz (GER) 14:14.44
- Best Swiss result: 5. Sabine Eichenberger (SUI) 14:22.35

**Single kayak (K1)**

1. Martina Satkova (CZE) 12:42.07
  2. Manon Hostens (FRA) 12:59.40
  3. Melanie Mathys (SUI) 13:04.41
- Best Swiss results: 9. Hannah Müller (SUI) 13:12.84, 16. Flavia Zimmermann (SUI) 13:38.28

Photographs available at <http://www.wm-muota2018.ch/en/home/>, and at Dropbox: <https://bit.ly/2L5XwMz> and also from [www.planetcanoe.icf](http://www.planetcanoe.icf)

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