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Slalom Men's C2 final report and photographs

Beijing - The Slovaks twins Peter and Pavol Hochschorner made Olympic history at the Shunyi Olympic Canoeing Park when they won a third successive Olympic gold in a final laced with drama.

The duo powered down the course on their final run, but picked up a two second penalty when Pavol's shoulder brushed the pole at gate nineteen. Nonetheless they held the overall lead as the final crew, the top seeded Germans Felix Michel and Sebastian Piersig set off for their final run.

However the German's bid for Olympic glory was in tatters two minutes later as their final run disintegrated from the outset. They were sluggish through the tricky upstream combination at gate three and four, and were then held momentarily in the stopper at gate five.

This seemed to rattle the Germans, as in their desperation to make up time they spun through 360 degrees below gate nine, and approached the one-and-a-half metre high drop called The Vortex needing to finish their final run fast and clean to keep their Olympic medal dreams alive.

They managed the main drop well, but just below gate fifteen they capsized. It took two attempts to roll their canoe upright, effectively ending what had been an extremely promising Olympic campaign.

The Hochschorner twins punched the air in celebration of their unique Olympic hat-trick, while the classy Czech crew of Jaroslav Volf and Ondrej Stepanek could then celebrate their silver medal, an improvement on the Athens bronze medals for the current world champions.

Mikhail Kusnetskoy and Dmitry Larionov won Russia's first slalom Olympic medal when their third place was confirmed. Their combined semi-final and final score was less than a second faster than the French duo of Cedric Forgit and Martin Braud.

"Every Olympic medal is significant," said Peter Hochschorner, downplaying the significance of their Olympic gold medal hat-trick, adding that it was their strength and conditioning as well as their mental preparation that had seen them prevail on the tough Shunyi course.

He also added that they had felt that the water was slightly higher on the course for the final. "Our time was two seconds different in the final, and we felt that water was higher on the course. We like technical courses, and the final was good technical course," he added.

Pavol Hochschorner also downplayed the significance of the unique relationship that exists between twins giving them any advantage. "It's rather about experience and spending time together in the boat," he said. He did concede that the touch on gate nineteen had worried them. "That touch was bad because it was so close to the end of the course."

The twins commiserated with the luckless Germans who imploded in the final, but added that they had felt they would be unable to repeat their solid showing in the semi-final that saw them start the final with the top seeding.






"We are very happy, " said Larionov. "This medal has very big significance for the promotion of slalom canoeing in Russia."

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

MEN'S C2 FINAL

- 1.Peter Hochschorner/Pavel Hochschorner SVK 190.82
- 2.Jarolsav Volf/Ondrej Stepanek CZE 192.89
- 3.Mikhail Kusnetskoy/Dmitry Larionov RUS 197.37
- 4.Cedric Forgit/Martin Braud FRA 189.19
- 5.Andrea Benetti/Erik Masoero ITA 204.12
- 6.Felix Michel/Sebastian Piersig GER 204.43

ENDS

Photo	Caption	Photographer	Click to download the hi-res pic
	Slovakian twins Pavol (left) and Peter Hochschorner cross the finish line to claim their third successive Olympic gold medal in the men's C2 final at the Shunyi Olympic Canoeing Park white water course.	Pic:Balint Vekassy / ICF	HERE
	Germans Felix Michel (left) and Sebastian Piersig struggling with the rough water during the final of the men's C2 competition at the Shunyi Olympic Canoeing Park.	Pic:Balint Vekassy/ ICF	HERE
	The C2 crew of Jarolsav Volf (front) and Ondrej Stepanek celebrate their silver medal in the final of the men's C2 slalom competition.	Pic:Balint Vekassy/ ICF	HERE
	The Russian C2 crew of Mikhail Kusnetskoy (left) and Dmitry Larionov savour the first slalom medal won by their nation in the Olympic men's C2 final.	Pic:Balint Vekassy/ ICF	HERE
	Then Olympic C2 medallists Jarolsav Volf and Ondrej Stepanek (left,CZE,silver), Pavol and Peter Hochschorner (centre,SVK,gold) and Mikhail Kusnetskoy and Dmitry Larionov (right,RUS,bronze).	Pic:Balint Vekassy/ ICF	HERE

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