



foto: Thomas Doornbos

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Severe weather, shattered world's best times and overjoyed medalists on the final day of the Amsterdam 2011 World Rowing Under 23 Championships

BLW1x The first Final A of the day set a new world record. The British Katherine Copeland won her race in the BLW1x in 7:30.19: 'I was dying out there, I was just holding on and counting strokes.' She stayed well ahead of Kryvasheva (Belarus) and Obee (Canada). Despite a strong first half, Dutch Annick Taselaar came in fifth.

BLM1x The second race, the BLM1x, was won by the French favourite Jeremie Azou, again setting a new world's best time under 23: 6:46.93. Azou kept a safe distance to his runners-up, Panagiotis Magdanis (Greece) and Andrew Campbell Jr. (United States). The Frenchmen's future plans are clear: 'Now I will go to Bled to try and win a medal in the LM2x.'

BM2- In a new world's best time of 6:20.43, the BM2- final was won by the British favourites, George Nash and Constantine Louloudis. Nash: 'We knew we could beat the South Africans with

a good race.' David Hunt and Lawrence Brittain from South Africa were second, the bronze medal was for the Germans Anton Braun and Bastian Bechler.

BW2x The gold medal of the BW2x went to Daniela Schultze and Mareike Adams, representing Germany. They broke the 2006 world's best time with a time of 6:51.58, closely followed by Romania, third was the crew from Austria. 'We were hoping to not only take the gold, but a World Record as well and we did,' said a happy Schultze.

BM2x The Dutch took the lead in the first 500m, but had to acknowledge the strength of the other crews later on. The Latvian and German crews took a great distance from the rest of the field, finishing in a best U23 time: 6:08.43. Latvian Lauris Sire and Dairis Adamaitis, reigning world champion, rowed just five

seconds slower than the senior's world record.

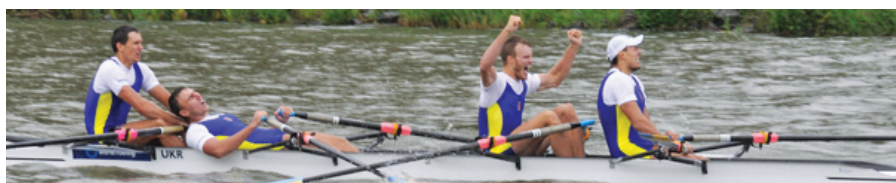
BLM4- At the thousand meter mark the BLM4- race was yet too close to call. Four crews, within a second from each other, were constantly fighting for the gold, until the Italians decided the race just meters away from the finish line. With a record time of 5:54.12 they came in first, just before France and Spain, who profited from a devastating crab of the Germans.



QUOTES TWEETS

Tweet @Amsterdamrowing: It would come in handy if someone could perform a dance to improve the weather during our lunchbreak. Commentator on the sirtaki playing from the finish tower: 'Very appropriate music here for the Greek BLW2x, who just won their third gold medal.' *Tweet @nlroe: It's not only raining cats and dogs here, but also world best times. The big question: is this good or bad promotion for the Bosbaan? Angus Morton (Australian BLM2x) on the many world's best times: 'Seniors, watch out, the U23s are coming to break your records!'* *Tweet @tomlynam: GB women's 8+ killin' it with legs and body only going up to the starting line. I dare say if they use their arms they could win it.*

WU23: raining world records



BLW2x While Greek folklore music was playing in the background, Christina Giazitzidou and Triantafyllia Kalampoka came to collect their well-earned gold medal in the BLW2x. After rowing their entire race in first position, they set a world's best time of 6:59.31. Spain took the silver medal, New Zealand earned the bronze.



BLM2x The Germans were the convincing winners of the BLM2x, followed by France in second position and Spain in third. Last year, Christian Hochbruck and Matthias Arnold won the bronze medal and have now worked themselves up to the gold position; the Greek title defenders were fifth this year.

BM4x After a scintillating race, the BM2x crew of Ukraine drew the longest straw. In a constant fight for the gold medal, Ukraine and the Czech Republic provided the audience

with excitement. Finishing with a difference of a canvas, tenths of seconds, Ukraine won the gold medal in 5:39.62, again a new U23 world record. The bronze medal went to Germany.

BW8+ With only five competitors, the BW8+ is sparsely occupied this year. Double entries forced The Netherlands to pull out of the race. The Canadese, who didn't have a lot of crews at the tournament, decided the race just before the 1000m mark. With a record time of 6:03.23. Canada won the gold, followed by New Zealand and the United States.

BM1x Hubert Trzybinski proved faster than other promising competitors in the BM1x, Stergios Papachristos (Greece), who ended fourth, and Aleksander Aleksandrov (Azerbaijan), who had to settle with a Final B win. Silver medalist was the Bulgarian Georgi

Bozhilov, bronze went to Rolandas Mascinskas of Lithuania. Trzybinski is now a world record holder with a time of 6:46.61.

BW1x Reigning World Champion Donata Vistartaite made a sure win in BW1x, just like the runners-up earned their medals. The Lithuanian finished in a time just



above the world record, 7:28.04, German single sculler Carina Baer won silver in a time of 7:33.02, the bronze was for Kaisa Pajusalu from Estonia (7:37.03). Dutch competitor Nicole Beukers had to settle for a fifth position.

BM8+ Fireworks were to be expected in the grand finale of the tournament: the BM8+. The American and Czech crews certainly provided the public with that: at 1250m the distance between the USA and the Czechs was only half a boat's length, but the Czechs failed to capture the lead. In pouring rain, the Americans were handed out their gold medals, the Czechs their silver medals, the crew from Great Britain the bronze.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT THE VOLUNTEERS



Visitors were welcomed by **Anne-Claire** and **Anouk**, who watched the main gate. 'It's cold, but quite fun. Anything striking we noticed? Well, the Germans seem to be the most cheerful visitors. They also are the best supporters, with many flags and shawls. The only hard thing about our job is stopping people without tickets or accreditation.'

Since Wednesday, **Ilse** has been volunteering at the event, doing all sorts of things. 'Today I'm in the control commission room, handing out bow numbers and GPS devices and collecting shoes from the rowers. Yesterday I was a bodyguard for the FISA, and before that I was in the motor boats in the water safety team. If a rower happened to fall out of his boat, we were there to rescue him. Luckily that wasn't necessary.'

Lotte had an honourable job: she was hoisting the flag for the bronze medalist during the Sunday morning prize ceremonies. 'Well, it would have been more honourable if the camera would also film me, not only the flag. The FISA officials always checked three times whether I had the correct flag, so my job wasn't too tough. The only thing you had to do was hoist in time. Although I sometimes had to wait, because my flag had to reach the top thirdly.'

Fieke guarded the athlete lockers on Sunday morning. 'Yesterday I was on the moving grandstand, so I was mostly in contact with the supporters, whereas today I'm meeting the athletes. That's quite cool, but sometimes it can be challenging, because everyone speaks a different language!'

