

CANADIAN PADDLERS SCOOP FOUR MEDALS

MECHELEN, BELGIUM (May 5, 1991) — Led by Dave Frost of Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Que., and Caroline Brunet of Lac Beauport, Que., Canadian paddlers scooped four medals in a tough field of 26 countries at the first major international canoe and kayak regatta of the season.

Frost, in his seventh year on the national team, topped all Canadian competitors to place second in the 500 metre canoe singles, just over a second behind winner Nikolai Buchalov of Bulgaria. In winning the silver medal Frost fought off two-time Soviet world champion and Olympic silver medalist Mikhail Sliwinski, who ended up third in 1:53.81.

In women's competition, Brunet, the latest in a long line of world class Canadian athletes from the Quebec suburb of Lac Beauport, paddled to bronze medals in both kayak singles and doubles. Rita Koeban of Hungary took the gold in the kayak singles with a time of one minute, 52.62 seconds. Reigning world champion Josepha Idem, formerly of West Germany and now racing for Italy, was second in 1:53.73 followed by Brunet in 1:54.27. Brunet later teamed with Australian Ann-Marie Wood in kayak doubles for her second bronze medal of the day with a time of 1:46.81. Eva Donusz and Erika Meszaros of Hungary placed first in 1:44.34.

Making a comeback after the worst-season in his ten-year career, former Olympic champion Larry Cain of Oakville, showed early season promise with three-top five finishes. Cain, who won a gold and a silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, teamed up with Jack Chubaty of Burlington, Ont., for third place in the 10,000-metre canoe doubles, was 4th in the 1000-metre canoe singles and 5th in the 500 metres.

In the 1000 metre canoe singles Nikolai Buchalov won his second event of the day with a time of four minutes, 1.6 seconds. Cain clocked 4:03.48 for his fourth-place finish, comfortably in front of the man who defeated him at the Canadian championships last year, Steve Giles of Lake Echo, Nova Scotia, who placed seventh in 4:04.19. Ivan Klementiev, of the Soviet Union, the 1988 Olympic champion was ninth in 4:06.25. "Larry seems to be back on track," said Rob Sleeth of Ottawa, high performance director of the Canadian team. "He's felt strong and in control through all his training this spring."

In other results, Dave Frost and Steve Wasteneys of Ottawa placed ninth in both the 1000 metre and 500 canoe doubles won by Arne Nelsen and Christian Fredericksen of Denmark; Peter Liljedahl of Burnaby, B.C. placed ninth in both the 500 metre and 10,000 metre canoe singles and Giles was 11th in the 10,000 metres.

FIVE MEDALS FOR CANADA AT THE ANNUAL RYABCHINSKAIA MEMORIAL REGATTA

MOSCOW (May 19, 1991) — Canadian paddlers continued their early season good form winning five medals at the annual Ryabchinskaja Memorial regatta. A rejuvenated Larry Cain, 28, of Oakville, Ontario took silver medals in the C1 (canoe singles) 1000 metres and the C1-10,000 metres along with a bronze medal in the C1-500 metres. Caroline Brunet, 22, of Lac Beauport, Quebec stroked to the gold medal in the women's K1 500 metres and a bronze medal in the K1-5000 metres. "I think this confirms that our top people are competitive this season," said Rob Sleeth, High Performance Director.

At the season opening meet in Mechelen, Belgium two weeks ago, Canadian paddlers won four medals.

In Moscow, Cain's third place in the C1-500 came behind first place Michail Sliwinski of the Soviet Union, the reigning world champion, who finished in the time of 1 minute 52.1 seconds. Another Soviet, Dimitri Dvrgalenko, was second in 1:54.6. Cain clocked 1:55.3.

In the C1-1000 Roman Boons of the Soviet Union won with 4:09.98. Cain posted 4:11.5. World and Olympic champion, Ivan Klementiev of the Soviet Union was third with 4:13.24, barely a stroke ahead of Steve Giles of Lake Echo, Nova Scotia who was fourth in 4:13.68. "I think those times will qualify Larry and Steve for the Olympics," said Sleeth.

In the C1-10,000, Klementiev won in 49:19.83. Cain came second in 49:59.68. Sergel Ossadchl of the Soviet Union was third in 50:21.27. Jack Chubaty of Burlington, Ontario was 12th with 52:35.31. "Larry has switched his training away from pure speed work and more towards endurance. It's beginning to pay off," said Sleeth. "That change in emphasis makes sense because for older athletes speed can kill."

Brunet, winner of two bronze medals in Belgium, upgraded her collection by winning the K1-500 in a time of 1:56.57. The Soviet Union's Julia Gayor was second in 1:58.35. (Ed. note - no third place result was available) Brunet was only disappointed by the absence of Italy's world champion, Josefa Idem, who had won at the season opener in Mechelen. Afterward, Brunet trained with Idem in northern Italy and was beating her consistently in practice.

In the women's long-distance 5000 metres, Betea Morozova of the Soviet Union won in 24:11.3. Teammate Tatiana Tyeklyan was second in 24:15.9 and Brunet finished third in 24:19.5. "The results are very encouraging particularly on the men's side where we now have some

depth that we really didn't have last year," said Sleeth.

Last season Larry Cain was clearly off form and failed to qualify for the world championships for the first time in 10 years.

"The only disappointing thing about Moscow was that David Frost got sick and couldn't race in the C1-500. He had beaten Sliwinski, the winner, in Belgium," said Sleeth.

Frost, from Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec was reported on the mend and is expected to be a medal contender come August at this year's world canoe and kayak championships in Paris.

The regatta is named after Julia Ryabchinskaja, a Soviet world champion of the 1960s, who drowned while training.