

CANOEING

The number of competitors on the Taivallahti canoeing course on July 27th—28th set a new record: 146 men and 13 women from 21 countries. Interest was heightened by the re-appearance in the canoeing events of the Germans, who did so well in Berlin in 1936, and the debut on an Olympic course of the U.S.S.R.

As in London four years earlier, in all the Kayak events the victories went to the Northern Countries. The only difference was that whereas in 1948 Sweden won four events and Denmark one, in 1952 Finland won four and Sweden one. In the Canadian events Czechoslovakia succeeded in repeating only one of her three victories in London, the U.S.A., France and Denmark sharing the rest between them.

The weather, rainy during the first week of the Games, turned fine and sunny just in time for the canoeing events. Nor did wind cause any trouble on this sea-course.

The programme for July 27th included all the 10 000 metres events on a course that was rounded three times. The series was inaugurated by 18 Kayak Pairs. They paddled to the accompaniment of a storm of applause from the Olympic Stadium a kilometre away, where a public of 70 000 was acclaiming the victor of the Marathon Race. Seated in the canoeing stadium was a small but all the more faithful band of enthusiasts spurring on their countrymen.

The winning crew in the London Games, Åkerlund—Wetterström (Sweden), and the Silver Medallists Mathisen—Östby (Norway) were defending their placings. The race went, however, to the Finnish pair Wires—Hietanen, who led from start to finish. The Swedes did not give in without a fight. The Finns crossed the line a mere half-metre in front, and that too only after a desperate effort. The Hungarian and Austrian crews were still challenging the leaders 600 metres from the line, when Finland and Sweden began their final fierce duel. The Norwegians had to be satisfied with fifth place in Helsinki.

This race over, the Canadian Pairs were sent off, followed five minutes later by the Canadian Singles.

In the Pairs, Canada appropriately led the way, but only until the spurt began in the last lap. Then France forged victoriously ahead. The winners Turlier—Laudet had rightly calculated to the last ounce their reserves of energy. The race as a whole was much closer than in 1948. In London the margin between the winners and the last crew (the sixth) was 7 mins. 39 secs. Now a mere 2 mins. 20 secs. separated the first and the ninth crew.

Out for the Canadian Singles Gold Medal were the Silver and Bronze Medallists in London, Havens (U.S.A.) and Lane (Canada), and the 1950 world title-holder Boutigny (France). This time Havens won, Lane finished fifth and Boutigny no higher than eighth. The Czech Jindra led most of the way, and only on the home straight in the last lap was he overtaken by Havens and the Hungarian Novák. This closely-matched trio were a class above the rest.

Twenty-year-old Thorvald Strömberg, a Finnish fisherman, fulfilled the hopes of his countrymen by winning the last race of the evening, the 10 000 metres Kayak Singles.



The medal-winners in the 10 000 metres Kayak Pairs. On the left the Swedes Åkerlund and Wetterström, in the middle the Finns Wires and Hietanen, on the right the Hungarians Varga and Guróvits.



The Grand Stand of the Taivallampi Canoeing Stadium.

Gert Fredriksson of Sweden, Gold Medal defender and several times world title-holder, hung on to Strömberg right to the last kilometre. As the Swede is famous for his powerful spurt, it began to look as though he had the race well in hand. But the pace set by the Finn had told. When Strömberg broke into a vigorous spurt Fredriksson was in no condition to challenge him. The German Scheuer surprisingly drove a wedge into the Northern Countries' front by taking third place.

The fine successes of the Finns on the first day led to a crowded stand on the second. With only the short-distance events left on the programme (women's 500 metres and four men's 1000 metres), there were exciting sprints in abundance to watch. Preliminary heats (in all 13) were held in the morning, the finals (5) in the evening.

The first to be decided was the women's Gold Medal. Sylvi Saimo of Finland, 1950 World Champion, set up in the first heat, hard pressed by the Austrian Gertrude Liebhart, the fastest time and consequently started favourite in the final. The best in the second

and third heats, Nina Savina (U.S.S.R.) and Alida van de Anker-Doedens (Holland), had however not been forced to go all out in the morning. In London four years earlier the Dutchwoman had finished second and Saimo only sixth. As it happened, the order of the four best in the evening was that shown by their times in the preliminary heats. Saimo and Liebhart had drawn the outer lanes and thus paddled far apart from each other. They were again as closely matched as in the morning, Saimo winning by 0.4 seconds. Savina was the only U.S.S.R. medal-winner in the canoeing events, and van de Anker-Doedens took fourth place only after a stiff fight with three other competitors.

The men's finals began with the Canadian Singles 1000 metres. Holeček of Czechoslovakia got away at once on his outer lane from the field and went on to increase his lead in convincing fashion. His lead was never threatened. The struggle for the other medals, however, was thrilling. Thanks to an effective sprint the Hungarian Parti finished second. Ojanperä of Finland surprised everyone by beating Andersson of Sweden and Havens, winner of the 10 000 metres. Another surprise was the Frenchman Molle's low placing in the final, last but one; after clocking the fastest time in the race in the first heat he was now almost half a minute slower.

The Canadian Pairs was a dramatic race. The French crew Dransart—Loreau were quick to gain the lead in the final, only to lose their timing and be passed by the Danes Rasch—Haunstoft. Recovering their rhythm the Frenchmen set off in furious pursuit, but again got their timing mixed. Their canoe turned sideways and glided off the lane. Czechoslovakia and Germany, too, overtook them. The tears this mishap evoked are understandable.

In the Kayak Singles Fredriksson had his revenge on Strömberg for his defeat the previous evening. At the half-way mark Fredriksson started a long gruelling spurt to which Strömberg surrendered. The other competitors were left far behind. Nikitin of the U.S.S.R., whose excellent performance in his heat had marked him out as a probable medallist, could no longer repeat it in the final and finished eighth. Third place was taken by Gantois of France, a shade in front of van der Kroft of Holland. When Fredriksson won the 1000 metres in London in 1948, van der Kroft was fifth.

The last race of the evening, the Kayak Pairs, was a nerve-racking spectacle. Four crews fought abreast for victory all the way to the finishing line. Only after the photo-finish camera had been consulted could it be announced who had won. Between the first and the fourth crew was a mere 0.7 seconds. At 300 metres Sweden led, Finland lay second and Germany third. At 400 metres the order was Sweden, Germany, Finland, Austria; at 500 metres Sweden, Austria, Germany, Finland; at 600 metres Sweden, Austria, Finland, Germany. Then, hotly urged on by the public, Finland's winning crew in the 10 000 metres, Wires—Hietanen, overtook Austria and drew level with Sweden. The last few seconds were intense. The judges proclaimed Finland the victor and Sweden the runner-up. Their times were the same, that of Austria 0.3 secs. and that of Germany 0.7 secs. slower. The canoeing regatta in the XV Olympic Games could hardly have ended more stirringly.

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Thorvald Strömberg, victor in the 10 000 metres Kayak Single event.

10 000 METRES KAYAK SINGLES July 27th h 19.30

Previous Olympic Winners

1936 E. Krebs *Germany* 46.01.6
1948 G. Fredriksson *Sweden* 50.47.7

There were 35 entries from 19 nations and
17 participants from 17 nations

1	STRÖMBERG, TH.	<i>Finland</i>	47.22.8
2	FREDRIKSSON, G.	<i>Sweden</i>	47.34.1
3	SCHEUER, M.	<i>Germany</i>	47.54.5
4	Hansen, E.	<i>Denmark</i>	47.58.8
5	Gulbrandsen, H.	<i>Norway</i>	48.12.9
6	Pech, M.	<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	48.25.8
7	Sotnikov, I.	<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	48.36.8
8	Bobeldijk, J.	<i>Holland</i>	49.36.2
9	Schmidtberger, A.	<i>Austria</i>	49.45.6
10	Derivery, P.	<i>France</i>	49.48.5
11	Deprez, H.	<i>Belgium</i>	50.20.6
12	Colyer, G.	<i>Great Britain</i>	50.55.3
13	Lipokatić, J.	<i>Yugoslavia</i>	51.01.3
14	Schuette, W.	<i>U.S.A.</i>	52.44.6
15	Albera, A.	<i>Italy</i>	53.49.2
16	Kamber, R.	<i>Switzerland</i>	54.57.3
17	Roth, L.	<i>Luxemburg</i>	56.02.9

1000 METRES KAYAK SINGLES

Previous Olympic Winners

1936 G. H. Hradetzky	Austria	4.22.9
1948 G. Fredriksson	Sweden	4.33.2

There were 39 entries from 21 nations and 20 participants from 20 nations

FIRST ROUND

July 28th

The first three from each heat qualified for the Final.

HEAT 1	HEAT 2	HEAT 3
1 Verbrugge, H. Belgium 4.27.7	1 v.d. Kroft, W. Holland 4.20.3	1 Strömberg, Th. Finland 4.15.5
2 Vambra, L. Czechoslovakia 4.30.1	2 Miltenberger, M. Germany 4.21.2	2 Nikitin, L. U.S.S.R. 4.17.1
3 Oldershaw, B. Canada 4.30.7	3 Gantois, L. France 4.22.2	3 Fredriksson, G. Sweden 4.17.6
4 Piccinelli, G. Italy 4.38.5	4 Albjerg, K. Denmark 4.24.2	4 Urányi, J. Hungary 4.20.9
5 Budrock, M. U.S.A. 4.39.5	5 Johnsen, P. Norway 4.25.2	5 Schreiner, H. Austria 4.22.9
6 Engler, H. Switzerland 4.39.7	6 Lipokatić, J. Yugoslavia 4.35.2	6 Anastasescu, M. Rumania 4.32.9
7 Colyer, G. Great Britain 4.39.9	7 Licker, R. Luxemburg 4.48.1	

FINAL

July 28th h 18.00

1 FREDRIKSSON, G. Sweden 4.07.9
2 STRÖMBERG, TH. Finland 4.09.7
3 GANTOIS, L. France 4.20.1
4 v.d. Kroft, W. Holland 4.20.8
5 Miltenberger, M. Germany 4.21.6
6 Vambra, L. Czechoslovakia 4.24.0
7 Verbrugge, H. Belgium 4.25.0
8 Nikitin, L. U.S.S.R. 4.26.2
9 Oldershaw, B. Canada 4.26.5

Gert Fredriksson, victor for the second time in the 1000 metres Kayak Single event.



The struggle ended. The victor in the 10 000 metres Kayak Pairs, Wires—Hietanen (135), at the landing stage. Beside them the Hungarian pair Varga (175) and Gurovits who finished third.

10 000 METRES KAYAK PAIRS

July 27th h 17.00

Previous Olympic Winners

1936 P. Wevers — L. Landen	Germany	41.45.0
1948 E. Åkerlund — H. Wetterström	Sweden	46.09.4

There were 69 entries from 19 nations and 36 participants from 18 nations

1 WIRES, K. — HIETANEN, Y. Finland 44.21.3
2 ÅKERLUND, E. — WETTERSTRÖM, H. Sweden 44.21.7
3 VARGA, F. — GUROVITS, J. Hungary 44.26.6
4 Raub, M. — Wiedermann, H. Austria 44.29.1
5 Mathisen, I. — Östby, K. Norway 45.04.7
6 Schaefer, K-H. — Miltenberger, M. Germany 45.15.2
7 Klabouch, R. — Dvořák, B. Czechoslovakia 45.39.6
8 Norregaard, I. — Frømming, S. Denmark 45.59.6
9 Koch, C. — Klingers, A. J. Holland 46.09.6
10 Feoktistov, I. — Teterkin, N. U.S.S.R. 47.00.9
11 Bridgen, W. — Nickel, J. Canada 47.53.2
12 Hess, H. — Zimmer, K. Saar 48.05.6
13 Koelsch, J. — Kunz, G. France 48.23.2
14 Anderson, J. — Bochnewich, P. U.S.A. 48.30.7
15 Palmer, G. — Parker, R. Great Britain. 48.32.6
16 Müller, W. — Bieri, W. Switzerland 49.21.2
17 Bastoni, R. — Agostini, D. Italy 49.21.8
18 Hanck, E. — Licker, R. Luxemburg 50.08.4

1000 METRES KAYAK PAIRS

Previous Olympic Winners

1936	A. Kainz — A. Dorfner	Austria	4.03.8
1948	H. Berglund — L. Klingström	Sweden	4.07.3

There were 69 entries from 19 nations and 38 participants from 19 nations

FIRST ROUND July 28th h 11.15

The first three from each heat qualified for the Final.

HEAT 1

1	Glassér, L. — Hedberg, I.	Sweden	3.51.7
2	Wires, K. — Hietanen, Y.	Finland	3.53.0
3	Dyg, E. — Lind, A.	Denmark	3.53.3
4	Troshenkov, A. — Kuznetsov, I.	U.S.S.R.	3.54.0
5	Matocha, J. — Kroutil, O.	Czechoslovakia	3.56.3
6	Valentino, E. — Vennettilli, P.	Italy	4.03.8
7	Prout, Fr. — Prout R.	Great Britain	4.07.6

HEAT 2

1	Raub, M. — Wiedermann, H.	Austria	3.55.2
2	Schmidt, G. — Noller, H.	Germany	3.55.7
3	Mathisen, I. — Østby, K.	Norway	3.58.2
4	Hess, H. — Zimmer, K.	Saar	4.01.4
5	Kuster, A. — Straub, H.	Switzerland	4.14.9
6	Lucas, J. — Roth, L.	Luxembourg	4.21.6

HEAT 3

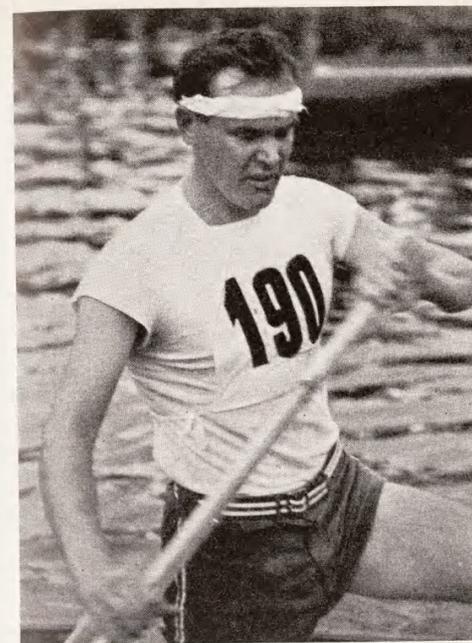
1	Koch, C. — Klingers, A. J.	Holland	3.54.3
2	Granek, I. — Kulcsár, J.	Hungary	3.54.5
3	Graffen, M. — Renaud, M.	France	3.54.8
4	van den Berghen, Fr. — van de Vliet, A.	Belgium	3.59.2
5	Horton, Th. — Eiseman, J.	U.S.A.	4.02.9
6	Cordner, R. — Ward, G.	Canada	4.27.5

FINAL

July 28th h 18.20

1	WIRES, K. — HIETANEN, Y.	Finland	3.51.1
2	GLASSÉR, L. — HEDBERG, I.	Sweden	3.51.1
3	RAUB, M. — WIEDERMANN, H.	Austria	3.51.4
4	Schmidt, G. — Noller, H.	Germany	3.51.8
5	Mathisen, I. — Østby, K.	Norway	3.54.7
6	Graffen, M. — Renaud, M.	France	3.55.1
7	Granek, I. — Kulcsár, J.	Hungary	3.55.1
8	Koch, C. — Klingers, A. J.	Holland	3.55.8
9	Dyg, E. — Lind, A.	Denmark	3.59.3

The finish of the 1000 metres Kayak Pairs. Farthest on the right the winners Wires—Hietanen.



1000 METRES CANADIAN SINGLES

Previous Olympic Winners

1936	A. Amyot	Canada	5.32.1
1948	J. Holeček	Czechoslovakia	5.42.0

There were 19 entries from 10 nations and 10 participants from 10 nations

FIRST ROUND

July 28th h 12.30

The first four from each heat qualified for the Final.

HEAT 1

1	Molle, J.	France	4.56.1
2	Parti, J.	Hungary	4.58.5
3	Havens, Fr.	U.S.A.	5.09.3
4	Andersson, I.	Sweden	5.11.9
5	Bossy, G.	Canada	5.25.8

HEAT 2

1	Holeček, J.	Czechoslov.	5.06.0
2	Ojanperä, O.	Finland	5.09.8
3	Berckhan, R.	Germany	5.17.3
4	Kotyrev, V.	U.S.S.R.	5.21.2
5	Marchand, G.	Great Britain	5.28.8

FINAL

July 28th h 17.20

1	HOLEČEK, J.	Czechoslovakia	4.56.3
2	PARTI, J.	Hungary	5.03.6
3	OJANPERÄ, O.	Finland	5.08.5
4	Havens, Fr.	U.S.A.	5.13.7
5	Andersson, I.	Sweden	5.15.0
6	Berckhan, R.	Germany	5.22.8
7	Molle, J.	France	5.24.1
8	Kotyrev, V.	U.S.S.R.	5.24.5

10000 METRES CANADIAN SINGLES

July 27th h 18.10

Previous Olympic Winners

1948	F. Capek	Czechoslovakia	1.02.05.2
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There were 19 entries from 10 nations and 10 participants from 10 nations

1	HAVENS, FR.	U.S.A.	57.41.1
2	NOVÁK, G.	Hungary	57.49.2
3	JINDRA, A.	Czechoslovakia	57.53.1
4	Backlund, B.	Sweden	59.02.8
5	Lane, N.	Canada	59.26.4
6	Fagerström, J.	Finland	59.45.9
7	Johannsen, Fr.	Germany	1.00.26.5
8	Boutigny, R.	France	1.01.15.2
9	Marchand, G.	Great Britain	1.02.21.7
10	Harin, P.	U.S.S.R.	1.03.03.2

Frank Havens, victor in the 10 000 metres Canadian Singles Left.

J. Holeček, victor in the 1 000 metres Canadian Singles.



10 000 METRES CANADIAN PAIRS

July 27th h 18.05

Previous Olympic Winners

1936 V. Mottl — Z. Skrdlant	Czechoslovakia	50.33.5
1948 S. Lysak — S. Macknowski	U.S.A.	55.55.4

There were 35 entries from 9 nations and 18 participants from 9 nations

1	TURLIER, G. — LAUDET, J.	France	54.08.3
2	LANE, K. — HAWGOOD, D.	Canada	54.09.9
3	DREWS, E. — SOLTAU, W.	Germany	54.28.1
4	Orishenko, V. — Perevoztshikov, N.	U.S.S.R.	54.34.6
5	Haas, J. — Krick, Fr.	U.S.A.	54.42.5
6	Karlík, B. — Lomecký, O.	Czechoslovakia	55.10.9
7	Söptei, E. — Söptei, R.	Hungary	55.35.3
8	Blomqvist, R. — Lindbeck, H.	Sweden	55.41.3
9	Kulo, J. — Salmisaari, T.	Finland	56.28.2

1 000 METRES CANADIAN PAIRS

Previous Olympic Winners

1936 V. Syrovátka — J. Brzák	Czechoslovakia	4.50.1
1948 J. Brzák — B. Kudrna	Czechoslovakia	5.07.1

There were 40 entries from 11 nations and 22 participants from 11 nations

FIRST ROUND

July 28th h 12.00

The first four from each heat qualified for the Final.

HEAT 1

1	Rasch, B. P. — Haunstoft, F.	Denmark	4.32.9
2	Brzák, J. — Kudrna, B.	Czechoslovakia	4.43.3
3	Johnson, A. — Hodgson, Th.	Canada	4.44.9
4	Bodor, I. — Tuza, J.	Hungary	4.51.5
5	Tuormaa, T. — Havulinna, M.	Finland	4.54.0
6	Krasavin, A. — Tshumakov, S.	U.S.S.R.	4.54.9

HEAT 2

1	Dransart, G. — Loreau, A.	France	4.38.8
2	Liebhart, K. — Lulla, E.	Austria	4.40.2
3	Haas, J. — Krick, Fr.	U.S.A.	4.43.3
4	Drews, E. — Soltau, W.	Germany	4.48.4
5	Blomqvist, R. — Lindbeck, H.	Sweden	4.50.2

FINAL

July 28th h 17.40

1	RASCH, B. P. — HAUNSTOFT, F.	Denmark	4.38.3
2	BRZÁK, J. — KUDRNA, B.	Czechoslov.	4.42.9
3	DREWS, E. — SOLTAU, W.	Germany	4.48.3
4	Dransart, G. — Loreau, A.	France	4.48.6
5	Bodor, I. — Tuza, J.	Hungary	4.51.9
6	Liebhart, K. — Lulla, E.	Austria	4.55.8
7	Haas, J. — Krick, Fr.	U.S.A.	4.59.0
8	Johnson, A. — Hodgson, Th.	Canada	5.01.4



The winners in the 10 000 metres Canadian Pairs, Turlier and Laudet.

Rasch and Haunstoft Below.



1 000 METRES KAYAK SINGLES (LADIES)

Previous Olympic Winners

1948 Karen Hoff *Denmark* 2.31.9

There were 17 entries from 13 nations and
13 participants from 13 nations

FIRST ROUND

July 28th h 10.00

The first three from each heat qualified for the Final.

HEAT 1

1	Saimo, Sylvi	<i>Finland</i>	2.20.1
2	Liebhart, Gertrude	<i>Austria</i>	2.20.6
3	Hartmann, Cecilia	<i>Hungary</i>	2.23.8
4	Marion, Eva	<i>France</i>	2.24.2
5	Ohlsson, Anna-Lisa	<i>Sweden</i>	2.28.3

HEAT 2

1	Savina, Nina	<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	2.22.1
2	Svendsen, Bodil	<i>Denmark</i>	2.24.9
3	Kroutilová, Marta	<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	2.27.1
4	Ascott, Shirley	<i>Great Britain</i>	2.34.4

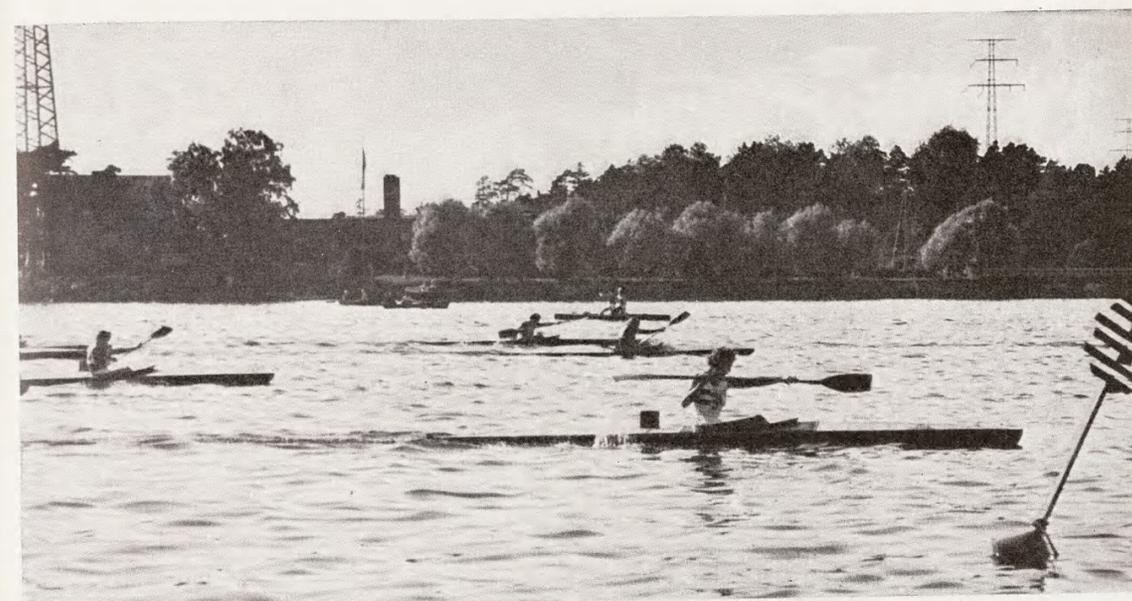
HEAT 3

1	v.d. Anker-Doedens, Alida	<i>Holland</i>	2.24.4
2	Koester, Josefa	<i>Germany</i>	2.26.2
3	Zenz, Therese	<i>Saar</i>	2.26.9
4	Sidler, Elsa	<i>Switzerland</i>	2.43.1

FINAL

July 28th h 17.00

1	SAIMO, SYLVI	<i>Finland</i>	2.18.4
2	LIEBHART, GERTRUDE	<i>Austria</i>	2.18.8
3	SAVINA, NINA	<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	2.21.6
4	v.d. Anker-Doedens, Alida	<i>Holland</i>	2.22.3
5	Svendsen, Bodil	<i>Denmark</i>	2.22.7
6	Hartmann, Cecilia	<i>Hungary</i>	2.23.0
7	Kroutilová, Marta	<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	2.23.8
8	Koester, Josefa	<i>Germany</i>	2.25.9
9	Zenz, Therese	<i>Saar</i>	2.27.9



The leading canoeists in the women's 500 metres cross the line. Nearest the camera Liebhart, in the middle the victor Saimo, behind her Savina.

The medal-winners in the women's canoeing event. Left to right: Gertrude Liebhart (Silver), Sylvi Saimo (Gold) and Nina Savina (Bronze).

