

Report of the **TIP** Wild-Water training camp and competitions in China
7th to 18th of December 2017



A. Participants:

Athletes (4): Sara Seprenyi (HUN), Kristina Petrovic (SRB), Alejandro Tames (MEX), Andraz Echeverria

Coach (1): Tom Bar (FRA)



B. Introduction:

Last autumn, Wild-Water Sprint comity was approached by China Canoe Association to work and develop WWS discipline in China. The plan was to organized international competitions in December and invited WWS top level athletes to compete on them. Few weeks later TIP athletes and coachs worked together on Pau 2017 Worlds and many paddlers from ICF development programs had the chance to paddle the WWS world Championships. This event was a success and we observed between athletes few paddlers interested and motivated by WWS practice. When we received CCA proposal informations about invited WWS paddlers to compete in China, TIP coach Tom Bar and TIP supervisor Pierrick Gosselin proposed to ICF WWS Comity to keep four places for TIP athletes. It was the perfect opportunity to continu development work did in Pau.

So after Visa, flight and entry process done Sara, Kristina, Andraz and Alejandro landed the 7th of December in Panzhihua, Sichuan province of China. Tom Bar arrived one week before them to start to work with CCA and Shang Long Sport association who manage all the event logistic organisation.

C. Camp resume:

The TIP delegation took part the ICF camp during all the event. This WWS ICF delegation was composed to 24 paddlers most of them from Europe and all over the world. Tom Bar had during his three weeks in China a triple mission:

- Work to organized all the sport logistic, schedule and safety event part in collaboration with CCA and Shang Long Sport.
- Be team Leader of the ICF WWS delegation and make the link during all the event between athletes and Chinese organisation and officials.
- Coach TIP athletes during this two compétitions weeks.

It was a real opportunity for TIP paddlers to met WWS top level athletes and passed so many time with them. They discovered a new face of high level canoeing world and new paddlers with different skills than they usually met on slalom event. The TIP paddlers were naturally really comfortable with this big group life. They were certainly athletes from the delegation with the most international camp experiences favor their TIP background.



During the first week athletes stayed in Panzhihua and competed on a YOG slalom format and a marathon race on the Yangtze River. Yangtze is really famous to be the third longest world river. His seven thousand kilometers cross China from Tibetan border to Shanghai. Then, during the second week, all the team moved to Yunnan province and took part with national Chinese delegation and all the organisation team to a huge while roaming travel along Salween river from the Tibetan source to Liuku Town. They slept in different accommodations each night and paddled every days in slalom boat on the Salween river big volume rapids. They competed on a classic distance race and a sprint race but they also practice a lot and paddled on some promotional shows organized by Salween valley cities.

D. Logistic organisation:

All the event logistic was managed by Shang Long Sport company. And they did that really well. Athletes slept, travel, ate and enjoy this event in really good conditions. Also CCA lent all the athletes boats for the event. We spent a lot of time to make them operational for European paddler heights and most of boats were too small for big volume rapids. It's really difficult to critic an organisation who provided boats for 24 paddlers.. But it's was important to note it for next editions because athlete safety can be impacted with this small boats without air bags and rescue paddlers on this really wild volume river.

Also Tom had to manage a lot the schedules to make them coherent and efficient taking into account the big groupe inertia, rapids difficulties, boat possibilities and balance between competitions and practice times. It was really important for athletes to adapt themselves quick but it wasn't a problem for TIP troops.



E. Official results:

<u>TIP paddlers</u>	Slalom PZI	Marathon PZI	Classic race Salween	Sprint Liuku Town
Sara Seprenyi (HUN)	13	7	DNF	2
Kristina Petrovic (SER)	12	12	7	8
Andraz Echeverria (CHI)	10	20	18	17
Alejandro Tames (MEX)	20	19	19	20

F. Individual Assessment:

Sara Seprenyi (HUN): Awesome camp, always trying to push your limits in wild water! You can continue to improve these skills each time you have an opportunity (big wave or stopper, freestyle boat). That sure it's will be an advantage for your slalom practice. I'm sure you will remember classic race in Salween. Use this experience too for slalom in courses like Bratislava or each time you have big rapids or tricky design at the end of a run and you have to keep lucidity.

Kristina Petrovic (SRB): Awesome camp too. Same advice like Sara keep working and playing Wildwater skills. Doesn't matter the boat you can continue improve feeling, balance and paddling in big waves. Keep practice too explosive and glide skills that sure you can transmit more your athletic skills to the boat. I hope Salween wasps did not follow you in Serbia!

Andraz Echeverria (CHI): Good job for your final access in slalom in the middle of this strong WWS and Chinese high level athletes! For next season keep working glide explosive skill as Kristina to optimize your athletic skills. You can also work on strokes placing in big wild water.

Alejandro Tames (Mex): Like your three friends you did a really good camp. You are definitely not afraid by big rapids. Now you have to improve a lot basic fine leaning skills and placing strokes to always keep your boat control in wild water. You also Good combativeness on this event, it was not easy.

G. Ending:

This Chinese camp was a really good opportunity for TIP Athletes to discovered a new canoeing face. They passed two weeks paddling in new playgrounds with new race formats, skills and new opponents. That sure they improved a lot technical skills, confidence in big volume, race strategies, adaptability. Everyone look forward the next edition, perhaps with real WWS boats. Thanks a lot to CCA and Shang Long Sport company to invited us and mad this event possible. Now we have to continu to work with WWS ICF comity for next WWS event and TIP athletes participations.

