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MUNICH 2022 DAY 4 REVIEW - ROWING

ZEIDLER MISSES OUT AS GREAT BRITAIN TOP ROWING MEDALS TABLE

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It was supposed to be a fairytale end to the European Rowing Championships – how a young man who took up rowing in Munich went on to scoop gold, following in the wake of his grandfather at the 1972 Olympic Games.

In the end, Oliver Zeidler's (GER) dreams of standing on top of the podium at the Olympic Regatta Centre ended with him slumped over his oars, exhausted after a furious 2,000m battle with some of the world's best scullers that left him in fourth place.

"I did everything on the course today, there was nothing to say against the tactic or something like that. I fired to the end and in the end the others were better," Zeidler commented, saying his strategy had worked until the headwind hit at 1,500m.



However, the Class of 22 athlete denied he had felt extra pressure to perform.

"I just wanted to have a good race here, and to give my best, and I did. In the end I'm a bit disappointed that I couldn't win a medal here, but that's sport. Sometimes others are better," he said.

Melvin Twellaar (NED) ultimately triumphed in the men's single sculls, matching the achievement of his teammate Karolin Florijn (NED) who had won the women's single half an hour earlier.

"We do the trials together always, and we can see the percentage of world best times comparing to each other, so she really motivates me how good she's doing as well as the rest of the team," Twellaar said.

BRITAIN CONFIRM DOMINANCE

Great Britain added a further two gold medals in the PR3 mixed coxed four and the lightweight women's double sculls, plus silver in the women's eight, to their tally. That meant they finished top of the rowing medal table.

"The plan was definitely just to go out there and put together a really confident and bold race in the conditions. And really show that we're really strong," said Imogen Grant (GBR) after a dominant 5.5 second win in the lightweight double sculls.

Romania also won two golds on Sunday, in the lightweight women's single and women's eight, putting themselves second overall.

Sunday was a strong day for Greece, with all four of their single scullers picking up medals. Antonios Papakonstantinou (GRE) won the men's lightweight single sculls, and Zoi Fitsiou (GRE), Evangelia Anastasiadou (GRE) and Stefanos Ntouskos (GRE) won silver in the women's lightweight single sculls, women's single sculls and men's single sculls respectively.

Olympic champion Ntouskos has been described by his teammates as an "inspiration", and he said he would like to see more athletes come to rowing.

"Rowing in Greece is not too much like football and basketball. We must create more athletes in rowing to inspire them to be in this sport because it's a beautiful sport," he said.