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Jackson Kayak Dominates World Freestyle Championships

BEACHBURG, CANADA – Eric “EJ” Jackson earned a record fourth world title at the Freestyle Kayaking World Championships May 2 – 4 on the world-renowned Bus Eater wave on Canada’s Ottawa River. Jackson’s prevailed over a field of nearly 70 of the best 20-something boaters from around the globe. His win also marks the first time anyone has ever won two World Championships back to back.

Joining Jackson with their first world titles were his daughter Emily, 17, in the junior women’s division, and fellow teammates Ruth Gordon in senior women’s, and Dan Burke in C-1. Son Dane Jackson, 13, took bronze in the junior men while teammate and Canadian National Champ Nick Troutman, 18, took bronze in senior men. All six boaters were paddling Jackson Kayak’s Star series of playboats.

Jackson says this World Championship field of competitors was as tough or tougher than any previous such competition. “Plus, even more than winning, to win on the biggest wave any kayak competition has ever been held on is really huge for me.”

Flowing at a near-record flows of 75,000 cfs (cubic feet per second) the Bus Eater wave towered some 15-feet from crest to trough.

Unarguably the best freestyle competitor since the sport debuted a little less than two decades ago, Jackson won his first title at the second-ever World Championships in 1993 and repeated as World Champ in 2001 and 2005. World Championships are held ever two years. Also the most versatile kayaker ever, Jackson also competed for Team USA in slalom in the 1992 Olympics, has won the most extreme downriver races of any kayaker and has recorded first descents on some of the world’s most challenging and remote rivers, including the Rio Alseseca in Mexico this past winter.

Founded in 2004, Jackson Kayak is the leader in whitewater kayak sales.