

Two medals from Polish Pruszkow

The city which hosted the Cycling World Championship last year welcomes European Elite Track Cycling Championship

By Yuri Karpenko

Such events have been held since 2001 but involved only athletes aged under-23; now, the European cycling elite is allowed to take part. Belarus' representatives brought home various medals, with Olga Panarina being crowned European champion in the kiering race. Meanwhile, Tatiana Sharakova won silver in the omnium (to be included in the Olympic programme in 2012).

Panarina's success was anticipated in the sprint, where Olga had

shown the best time in the qualification round. She confidently covered all stages until the semi-finals. Struggling against Sandie Clair of France, who lacks Panarina's speed but boasts good strategy, Olga won the first race. However, she lost the next two to Clair, who went on to take gold. Olga then decided to conserve her energy for the kiering, rather than racing against Simona Krupeckaite of Lithuania for a lesser medal. She made the right decision, beating Krupeckaite and Clair, alongside titled Victoria Pendleton



Olga Panarina confidently snatches gold medal at European Championship

of Great Britain, to claim her ultimate victory. Pendleton did not race in the sprint.

Tatiana Sharakova's omnium success involved her competing in a combination of six disciplines. After the first day, Leire Dorronsoro of Spain snatched the lead, leaving Sharakova in fifth place. On the sec-

ond day, the Belarusian performed brilliantly, winning the scratch, alongside other events. This was enough to confirm her silver, with Dorronsoro earning gold.

Fourth place in the pursuit race went to the Belarusian girls' team of Irina Kryuchkova, Oksana Popko and Tatiana Sharakova. They came

third in the qualification round but lost bronze to Germany in the final race.

In the overall standings of the European Championship, Belarus came fourth, jointly with Russia. Great Britain, France and Germany took gold, silver and bronze respectively.

High status of sporting city

Brest launches ultra modern Palace of Water Sports

By Kirill Pirogov

The new complex is able to host national and international events in swimming, water jumping, synchronised swimming and water polo while training our national teams and the next generation of athletes. Swimming is traditionally one of the most medal-rich sports, so Brest can help reap our national crop.

The Water Palace is one of the best in Belarus and Europe, meeting all international standards. It boasts four swimming pools — the biggest of which is 50 by 25 metres and can accommodate eight lanes; an automated platform can be activated to divide the swimming pool



Palace of Water Sports in Brest

Federation (FINA) standards. This will enable the site to host world and European championships and World Cup rounds for various age groups.

The Water Palace completes a whole sports complex, making a small sporting district in the centre of Brest. A tunnel separates the Palace from a regional clinic of sports medicine and the new building borders a baseball and softball stadium, facing the Ice Palace and an athletics stadium. On the opposite bank of the River Mukhavets, there is a rowing channel which has already hosted European and world championships. We hope that the Brest Water Palace will continue this wonderful tradition.

Even strongest can lose



Yekaterina Karsten captures silver in Kapiro

Great has claimed six world championships, winning gold every year since 2005.

This year, in New Zealand's Kapiro, in the singles race, the titled Belarusian won all the preliminary rounds and, in the 2,000m finals, was the leading favourite. Alas, at the very end, she allowed Swedish Frida Svensson to overtake her by a mere 0.18 seconds, causing a sensation and depriving Yekaterina of her seventh world

champion title.

In the final race, Svensson slightly pulled away from her rivals in the very first minutes while Karsten rowed ahead, shoulder to shoulder with Mirka Knapkova. Yekaterina had viewed Mirka as her main opponent and paid little attention to the Swedish rower. In the middle of the race, the gap between Svensson and Karsten narrowed to two seconds.

Everyone anticipated Karsten's famous surge of power in the second half, and she did not disappoint, rowing at full speed as the race progressed, pushing Knapkova out of her way for the final 500m. However, in the last moments, Svensson managed to pull ahead to claim her unexpected win. Of course, Yekaterina's greatness is undiminished. Svensson's victory is perceived as a miracle, whereas Yekaterina is still expected to win gold at the 2012 Olympics in London.

Alert audience interest

Dynamo Minsk enjoying greatest popularity within Continental Hockey League

The CHL's official website lists the top three teams by the number of people attending matches. Dynamo Minsk leads with an average of 9,355 spectators per match, followed by Avangard (Omsk) — 9,313, and Lokomotiv Yaroslavl — 9,046. Dynamo Minsk's performance is remarkable, considering that three of its matches have been hosted by Bobruisk Ice Palace (able to seat 7,000 spectators) rather than Minsk-Arena, which has been busy preparing for the Junior Eurovision

Song Contest.

In comparison to the last two CHL seasons, attendance is up — to 5,740 people per match on average. Dynamo Minsk is demonstrating the biggest progress: up almost 200 percent on last year. Meanwhile, Minsk-Arena set an absolute record on September 21st, gathering 15,531 spectators for the Dynamo Minsk v. Ak Bars match (Dynamo won in overtime — 5:4). The last achievement of the kind belonged to a match between SKA St. Petersburg and Dynamo Riga, held at St. Petersburg's Ice Palace on January 24th, 2010, witnessed by 12,090 spectators.



Minsk Dynamo's performance attracts fans

One step from podium

Men's sabre fencing team placed fourth at World Fencing Championship

In Paris, our men's team (Dmitry Lapkes, Alexander Buikevich, Valery Priemko and Alexey Likhachevsky) lost to Romania in the fight for bronze — 41:45. Nevertheless, fourth place at the World Fencing Championship is a major breakthrough for Belarus: its best result since gaining independence. At the European championships, Belarusian fencers claimed silver in 2007, in Belgian Ghent, and bronze in 2008, in Kiev.

The results in Paris could have been better but, in the quarter-fi-

nals, captain Dmitry Lapkes was injured during play against China. On the way to fourth place, our squad defeated Brazil, China and the 2008 Beijing Olympic champion, host France. Struggling for bronze, against Romania, Dmitry Lapkes fought briefly, despite being in pain. In the semi-finals, without Lapkes, our team lost to world leader Italy. However, our Belarusian fencers posed a worthy threat.

The Belarusian women's team (Olga Kiseleva, Natalia Moskina and Darya Andreeva) were knocked out of the event in the 1/16 finals, ending their first performance at a women's team fencing contest.

By Yuri Kovalev

Twice Olympic champion and six-time winner of world championships Yekaterina Karsten fails to claim gold medal at recent World Rowing Championship

This season, Karsten, 38, has been in excellent shape, winning every World Cup round, as well as the European Championship. During her career, Yekaterina the