

## Repeating their SUCCESS

By Yuri Kovalev

### Belarusian athletes return from World Sambo Championship with clutch of medals

Our team has yet again confirmed their star status by winning ten medals in Tashkent, competing against 26 other countries. The men captured five medals (two gold, one silver and two bronze), as did the women (two silver and three bronze).

Dmitry Bazylev (weight category under 68kg) and Andrey Kazusenok (90kg) became world champions while Alexey Romanchik (74kg) took silver and Andrey Kurlypo (52kg) and Yevgeny Semochkin (100kg) claimed bronze. The Belarusian men's team finished second overall, after Russia. Georgia closed the top three.

Meanwhile, Tatiana Moskvina (48kg) and Irina Iodkovskaya (above 80kg) took silver; bronze went to Yekaterina Prokopenko (60kg), Anastasia Leshkova (64kg) and Yekaterina Radevich (72kg).

## Polesie Cup goes to Denmark

### Belarusian national hockey team loses at home for first time

Despite beating Norway in the last round of the fifth Polesie Cup (5:2) Eduard Zankovets' team has lost the main trophy to Denmark — 2:4. Between the two matches, the host team beat Slovenia 8:2; nevertheless, Denmark eventually proved stronger.

"The three matches in Gomel were played in very high spirits. Unfortunately, in the first match, we were not successful in one period," notes the head coach of the Belarusian squad. "In eight out of nine periods, we're happy with our performance but having several players sent off the ice in the last match was disappointing. Youth, enthusiasm and emotions clearly took over." Mr. Zankovets sees nothing terrible in the Cup leaving Belarus, since his team performed in Gomel with an experimental line-up.

The Belarusian under-20s hockey team also took part in an international tournament in Copenhagen, Denmark, coached by Oleg Mikulchik. They are currently training (like other Belarusian squads) for the World Championship. The squad defeated Latvia — 3:0, Austria — 7:6 (in overtime) and Finland — 5:2 but was crushed by Denmark — 0:6. However, it won the event over all.

# Borisov's 'golden' autumn

BATE Borisov becomes Belarusian football champion once again

By Yuri Karpenko

This has been an action packed year for BATE. Earlier, they won the Belarusian Cup, despite having failed to make much of an impression beforehand. They were knocked out of the Champions League but performed well in the Europa League. Approval for the new stadium in Borisov was good news and, now, they are celebrating their seventh Belarusian championship title.

Of course, not all is rosy, since Victor Goncharenko's squad battled hard for their success. This year, their schedule is more hectic than usual. Previously, battling on several fronts simultaneously did not hamper the team but, this season, it engaged in more matches. Those of the European Cup have drained their energy, so it was a challenge to participate in the national championship. Meanwhile, July and August proved tough for the squad, as they were heartily criticised following their defeat in Copenhagen, Denmark, which deprived them of their dream of entering the Champions League.

However, their latest success has curbed speculation



BATE forward Maxim Skavych (with the ball) proves his mettle this season

that BATE has stagnated. Returning to the European arenas and starring at home, BATE has proven that they are unequalled in Belarus. BATE has taken Belarus' championship title for the fifth time in a row and for the seventh time in total. Former leader Dy-

namo Minsk had no chance against BATE, with their ambitious plans to top the Belarusian football rankings crushed by an obviously more formidable rival.

BATE is Belarusian champion for the third time with famed coach Victor Gon-

charenko. At the end of this season, he was in the spotlight, as many anticipated his retirement. He denied the rumour but admitted that some players may leave BATE, allowing the line-up to be strengthened. This is routine, with players leaving and substitutes found

on a regular basis. Anatoly Kapsky, Chairman of BATE Board, notes, however, that the team doesn't expect a major reshuffle.

Meanwhile, the national football team of Belarus ended their exclusively successful year with an away match against the little known Omani team. Our squad travelled to Muscat where they left the host team without a chance, defeating them 4:0. Krasnodar defenseman Alexander Martynovich scored twice, while BATE forward Vitaly Rodionov and halfback for Chinese Shenzhen Vyacheslav Hleb claimed one goal each. The Belarusian squad was missing some of its leading players: Alexander Hleb, Vitaly Kutuzov, Yuri Zhevnov, Sergey Kornilenko and Anton Putilo. Nevertheless, the win was an easy one, as the opponent did not pose a serious threat.

The national team of Belarus, coached by Bernd Stange, has now climbed to 40th position in the FIFA rankings (up from 42nd in October). Spain leads, followed by Holland, with Brazil closing the top three — their positions unchanged. FIFA will next update its rankings on December 15th.

## Strong Olympic impetus

### 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics to facilitate sport of curling in Belarus

The Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee, George Katulin, has told the President of the European Curling Association, Andrew Smith, that Minsk-Arena's launch offers a wonderful opportunity to develop this new sport in Belarus. The Arena is ready to host high level interna-

tional events. Today, Belarus is placed 36th in the world curling ratings, among 48 states. The Belarusian Curling Federation is making every effort to improve its position but we need training and more developed technical equipment.

Mr. Smith has pledged to provide the necessary assistance in several directions: purchasing new ice cleaning machines and fill-

ing Minsk-Arena's two professional ice rinks, training specialists in using the machinery and techniques, and organising curling training for judges and athletes. He has also suggested that the Belarusian Curling Federation hold an open day to promote the new sport. Since 1998, at the Games held in Nagano, curling has been admitted on the Olympic programme.

## Expressive sport of dancing

By Kirill Pirogov

### Belarusian dancing duo claim bronze at European Cup Belarus Open

The international sports dancing tournament, the Belarus Open Championship, was held at Minsk's Palace of Sports for the sixth time. The beautiful and prestigious event gathers dance couples from the CIS and beyond. This year, the event was held as part of the European Cup and within two world rating tournaments of the highest standing: the IDSF International Open Latin and Standard. Belarusian Artem Kozyro and Anastasia Veslova were placed third in the European Cup for their ten Latin American and European dances. Meanwhile, Yuri Simachev and Anastasia Klokotova (of Russia) earned gold, and silver



Dancing pairs please Minsk audience

went to Germany.

In the IDSF International Open Latin event, the most prestigious, Russia claimed every prize, with gold captured by Dmitry Pugachev and Yelena Zyuzukina. In the IDSF International Open Standard, Victor Burchuladze and Valeria Agikyan of Russia came first.

In addition to the competitive part of the event, there was a traditional demonstrative performance by the top couples. Brilliant Italian pair Domenico Soale and Gioia Cerasoli — multi-time world champions with their European programme — presented a spectacular show.

## Mirny-Bhupathi: to London via Paris

### Belarusian-Indian duo win ATP tournament in Paris

Mirny and Bhupathi have defeated Mark Knowles (Bahamas) and Andy Ram (Israel) in the finals — 7:5, 7:5, giving them their first win since 2004, and entry to the finals of the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals in London.

Mirny and Bhupathi know well the taste of victory. Between 2002 and 2004, the duo won seven prestigious titles. "We've reached the finals several times but always lost the decisive matches. I'm extremely happy that, at last, we've won a tournament — rather than just separate matches," Mirny told reporters in Paris.

"Reaching the finals often means that, one day, you'll win a tournament. I last won in Paris 12 years ago," comment-



Successful tennis duo ed Mahesh Bhupathi. "We performed quite well and, now, going to London, I'm confident we won't let each other down."

Max Mirny, 33, has boasted many wins over the past decade on French courts, playing with Nicklas Kulti. Since 1999, he has won at least one tournament every season; 2010 is no exception.

## With view to Games

### Aalborg, Denmark, hosts draw for final tournament of Junior European Football Championship 2011

The Belarusian junior national team, coached by Georgy Kondratiev, has been allocated to Group A, alongside Denmark, Iceland and Switzerland. Its first opponent is destined to be Iceland.

The semi-finals will see the two best teams from each

group battle for a place in the Euro-2011 finals, to be held in Danish Aalborg, Aarhus, Herning and Viborg, kicking off on June 11th, 2011. The final is scheduled for June 25th next year, with the results affecting eligibility for the 2012 Olympics in London.

The Belarusian junior football team has twice reached the final eight teams on the continent. In both cases, we failed to reach the play-offs.