

Among prize holders

Belarusian men's team in modern pentathlon captures bronze at European Championship relay race in British Midway

Dmitry Melyakh, Nikolay Gayanovsky and Stanislav Zhuravlev earned 6,400 points, behind Hungary (6,618) and Poland (6,458). The women's team was placed 6th, with 5,234 points.

Dmitry Melyakh was acknowledged best among the Belarusians in the individual events, with 5,812 points, which placed him 10th, also ensuring a place at the 2012 London Olympics.

Hot days for wrestlers

World Championship opens on September 12th in Istanbul, shuffling London Olympic licenses

The Belarusian team recently returned from Polish Radom, our Greco-Roman wrestlers having won four medals at the Vladislav Pytlyasinsky Memorial event. Silver was captured by Yerbol Kalabaev (under 60kg) and Timofey Deinichenko (96kg), while bronze went to Elbek Tashiev (55kg) and Iosif Chugoshvili (120kg). All are in with a good chance of medals at the forthcoming World Championship.

Belarus came second in the team standings, behind Russia which won five (out of seven) weight categories and proving that its school remains the strongest in the world.

Footballers enter into battle with high spirits

Qualifying tournament of 2012 European Championship almost at an end



Belarus' national football team defeats Bulgaria in Minsk friendly match — 1:0

By Yuri Bakerenko

In September, Belarus will twice play against Bosnia, facing Romania in October. Only time will show whether we'll go through to the European Championship's final round but we are looking to the future

with optimism.

In a friendly match, Bernd Stange's trainees recently defeated the strong Bulgarian squad 1:0 — performing in grand style, with the goal scored by Kazan Rubin's Sergey Kislyak. It was their fourth match to date, but the only time that

Belarus has broken tradition to claim victory. Minsk's Dynamo Stadium hosted the battle, at which our squad appeared balanced, well-organised and high spirited. They went on the attack, several times hitting the bar, while the Bulgarians were passive and uninventive.

The result was no great surprise, as both coaches admitted afterwards. Lothar Matthäus, a former legendary defenseman for the German team and today's head coach of the Bulgarian squad, commented, "I'm very displeased by the result and my team's performance.

I congratulate Belarus on its victory; it's a fair result. The Belarusians used the ball perfectly, creating many opportunities for scoring. It was good fortune for us that we managed avoid second and third goals. Sadly, the sun doesn't always shine in football; clouds are also possible."

Belarus' head coach, Bernd Stange, noted, "It seems to me that, in action, we gave a more interesting game than the Bulgarians. We can be proud of this. The beginning of the match was tough, with the first ten minutes not going well for us. However, later, we began playing better and quicker. The final score could easily have been 3:0 or even 4:0 but, sadly, we failed to realise a few opportunities. However, our win is a good result before the forthcoming matches against Bosnia and Herzegovina. This match proved useful and important to us."

August 10th was an important date for all Belarusian fans, as the country's U21 team also demonstrated a high level of play, following the example of the national squad. Our young players have begun their qualifying round for the 2013 European Championship with a win, defeating Greece away — 3:2. The final goal was scored in extra time, by Novopolotsk Naf-tan forward Dmitry Khleb-solov.

Darya Domracheva performs in summer Champions Race

Püttlingen, Germany, hosts biathlon version of Formula One Monaco Grand Prix

The festival traditionally gathers the best sportsmen from the previous season, attending by an audience of several dozen thousand. Each participating athlete has a string of successes to their name, including Belarusian Darya Domracheva, who claimed a medal at the Vancouver Olympics and won medals in the World Cup rounds. She made her debut amongst star company, which she admits gave her some nerves; she failed to perform as well as fans would have hoped. Nevertheless, her performance was certainly memorable; known for her numerous amusing mistakes, this time, she forgot to shoot away the last target.

"This race was more of a show for me than a competition," Darya said on crossing the finish line. "I merely arrived... and ran. The atmosphere here



Darya Domracheva (foreground) at Püttlingen competition

is not competitive. It was interesting for me to take part and see what would happen. There's no need to draw any serious conclusions; some things were fine and others were not; it's been a lesson to me."

By the time Darya reached the sec-

ond shooting line, she had no chance of winning; accordingly, her 'trick' was of little consequence. The Belarusian will show her major results in winter; as she notes, her training is in full swing. Darya plans not merely to participate in the forthcoming events but to win.

Plans for new team and the future

Belarusian basketball squad take part in second half of European Championship's qualification tournament, in Division B

After last year's failure (of four matches, Belarus won only its home match against Albania), it needed a true optimist to hope that our team might join Division A. However, young coach Andrey Krivonos is certainly ambitious. For the past two years, he has helped Minsk-2006 win the national championship, while inspiring a good result in its debut within the VTB United League. Now, he aims to repeat his success with the national team, changing its line-up in time for the forthcoming qualification matches.

Next season, the teams will be divided into divisions, placing new demands on them while creating new possibilities. Our Belarusians are keen to make the most of the oppor-



Playing against Sweden

tunity. After playing against Sweden, the team's next rivals will be Albania, Azerbaijan and Romania. If we win every match, the Belarusian team will qualify for a place among the global basketball elite. Meanwhile, Belarus' women's junior basketballers are through to the European Championship's quarter-finals (Division B), hosted by Hungarian Miskolc, playing against Greece. If they win, they'll battle in the semi-finals for a place in Division A — granted to each finalist of the tournament.