

Sniper's 'golden' shot

By Kirill Pirogov

26th Summer Universiade finishes in Shenzhen, China

The Belarusian squad earned 13 medals: three gold, four silver and six bronze. Two gold medals went to Yuri Shcherbatsevich. His first was for small calibre shooting in the 50m prone position. Then, partnering Ilya Chergeiko and Timofey Vyshinsky, he added another gold to the team's result.

Our Belarusian tennis players did best of all at the Student Games, with four athletes capturing five medals. Sergey Betov and Alexander Bury took the lead, with a joint silver in the men's doubles followed by one bronze each in individual events. Having lost in their semi-finals, Belarus was obliged to make do with a bronze medal (since matches for third place are not held at the Universiade). In the mixed event, with Svetlana Pirozhenko, Bury took another silver, losing in the finals to a Taiwanese duo. The Belarusians also took the tennis team silver, behind South Korea.

Three swimming medals went to Alexandra Gerasimenya, who claimed the 50m freestyle gold, took silver in the 50m backstroke and bronze in the 100m backstroke. Three bronze medals were won by Lyubov Cherkashina, who was placed third in calisthenics (all-round) and in the individual exercises with ball and skipping rope.

As expected, China claimed the most medals in Shenzhen, with an impressive 145 awards. Belarus finished 19th.

Football autumn expected to flower with brightest colours for BATE team

After defeating Austrian Sturm in an away match, BATE Borisov is through to Europe's biggest club tournament — the UEFA Champions League — for first time in three years

By Yuri Karpenko

Despite the Austrian match at Minsk's Dynamo Stadium leading to a fair draw of 1:1, few believed BATE would see victory at the return match in Austria; it's always more difficult to play far away from home. Moreover, the Borisov footballers really needed a win to go through to the next stage.

Neither team presented an optimum line-up in Graz. The Austrians' leading forward, Roman Kienast, was absent due to injury while BATE was missing experienced half-backs Dmitry Likhtarovich and Alexander Pavlov. On the eve of the meeting, the tension was palpable. BATE head coach Victor Goncharenko noted, "When the Champions League Anthem is played, emotions brim over. Our opponent is good in defence while being well organised; they use others' mistakes to their advantage."

In the return match, Vitaly Rodionov was the first to scope out Sturm's goal, making a risky long-distance kick in the first minute. Artem Kontsevoy soon seized the moment, with his shot saved by the Austrian goalkeeper. However, BATE laid the first stone in the foundation of their success during the 36th minute. Edgar Olekhovich made a pass from



Alexander Volodko (R) is first to strike Sturm's goal

the field's centre to Alexander Volodko, who scored unexpectedly from 25m, sending the ball tightly under the bar. The Austrians then became evidently more nervous, which affected their play.

During the 70th minute, the Borisov footballers scored again, in a similar fashion to

their goal of the previous week at Dynamo Stadium. Again, Dmitry Baga took a penalty kick, with Marko Simić heading the ball directly under the bar. In the remaining time, BATE primarily focused on defending their goal. However, they still created a few tense moments near their rival's net.

By the final whistle, the scoreboard showed 2:0 in BATE's favour.

"This is our holiday and we've deserved it," noted Mr. Goncharenko at an after-match press conference. "It's a fantastic achievement for our club and country. Over a short period of time, BATE

has become a frequent player in Champions League and Europa League group tournaments. We've acquired great experience, which helped us in the match against Sturm. Few believed in us after our home draw but we've achieved our goal."

This is the second time that Belarus' seven-time champion has reached the Champions League group stage. The Borisov players last achieved this in the 2008/2009 season, joining Real Madrid, Juventus Turin and Zenit St. Petersburg in the Champions League's foremost round.

This time, the draw in Monaco has seen rivals chosen for BATE in H Group of no less star quality. Barcelona has four times won the tournament, being the current holder of the Champions League cup; meanwhile, Milan has won the event seven times. Viktoria of the Czech Republic is yet to boast any grand successes at European level but will no doubt be keen to prove itself worthy.

Matches will be held from September 13th to December 7th, with two teams from each group reaching the next round. Those occupying third place in each quartet will go to the play-offs of the Europa League — Europe's second most important club tournament.

Eight medals and six tickets to 2012 Olympic Games

Belarusian kayak and canoe masters claim multiple victories at 2011 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships in Hungary

By Yuri Kovalev

Belarus has won a record number of medals — one gold, three silver and four bronze — at the Rowing Canal in Szeged; according to specialists, it boasts the most dedicated fans. Our athletes claimed six Olympic tickets as a result of their unchallenged triumph.

Sadly, Olympic champions Roman Petrushenko, Alexey Abalmasov, Artur Litvinchuk and Vadim Makhnev failed to reach the main finals and did not take part in B finals, which have placed their chances of going to London in jeopardy. Their last opportunity will

come in spring. The men's kayak four is one of the most spectacular and prestigious in the Games' programme, with Belarus already known for its skill. Our athletes caused a real stir at the Beijing Olympics and have since regularly confirmed their leadership, winning various international level medals.

Other season leaders, including Oleg Yurenya of Belarus, were also left without medals. Oleg faced disappointment in the K1 1,000m but nevertheless has his place at the London Olympics, as do Alexander and Andrey Bogdanovich, who came sixth in C2 1,000m. Yurenya almost

came first in the marathon K1 5,000m; his delayed start left him in second place.

Roman Petrushenko and Vadim Makhnev earned bronze in the K2 200m, but could have done better. They spoilt their first two strokes, which influenced their position. Alongside the women's four, they managed to win medals in Olympic disciplines. Irina Pomelova, Nadezhda Popok, Olga Khudenko and Marina Poltoran came third behind Hungary and Germany. Poltoran has long been a leader in the K1 5,000m, but failed to keep her initiative during the final section, leav-

ing her with bronze.

The only gold was won by canoeists Dmitry Ryabchenko, Dmitry Voitishkin, Denis Garazha and Alexander Volchetsky — in the C4 1,000m; they left their rivals no chance for the third time at world championships. They have places at the London Games in all three events. Alexander Zhukovsky came fourth in the men's C1 1,000m while Dmitry Voitishkin finished sixth in the C1 200m.

The coaches have decided not to accelerate the training of Denis Garazha — who leads the national team. He missed the beginning of the season



Victorious finish for Belarusian canoe four

due to injury. He took part in the less prestigious C1 500m, claiming silver. Meanwhile, Ryabchenko and Volchetsky

gave us a pleasing bronze in the C2 sprint event. Finally, young kayaker Pavel Medvedev won silver in the K1 500m.