

Time to return to previous position

By Kirill Pirogov

Belarusian tennis players begin new Davis Cup season with match against Moldova

The Moldovan team are to face our Belarusian tennis players in the first round of the Davis Cup Euro/Africa Zone Group II. According to the tournament's website, in line with the draw in Bangkok, the match will be held in Minsk from February 10th-12th. On April 6th-8th, the winner and the loser will then meet their counterparts from the Turkey-Bosnia Herzegovina match.

Belarus is ranked 51st in the Davis Cup rankings while the Moldovan team is placed 77th.

This season, the Belarusian national team has already won its home match against the Bulgarians (4:1) and has lost in its away match to the Hungarians (2:3). They failed to reach the decisive round to gain entry to Group I (from which the squad was relegated in 2010).

Ten victories is no limit

ITF Women's International Challenge in Chinese Ningbo finishes with Belarusian Anastasia Yekimova's victory

The 24 year old Minsker, seeded second in the competition, confidently overcame all obstacles, losing only one set. In the quarter-finals, the 79th world seed crushed Japanese Aiko Nakamura before defeating Stéphanie Foretz Gacon of France in the semi-finals. She then dispatched Japanese Erika Sema in the ultimate match.

This is the tenth ITF title for Yekimova and the second of the current season. In 2011, she won a trophy in Nassau, beating German Angelique Kerber in the finals.

Expanding rich collection of deservedly won awards

Belarusian shooter Sergey Martynov wins ISSF World Cup Final, earning gold in men's 50m prone rifle event



In Wroclaw, Sergey Martynov confirms his supremacy over rivals yet again

By Yuri Karpenko

In Polish Wroclaw, the 43 year old Belarusian has retained his 2010 World Cup champion-

ship title, proving himself to be the world's #1 rifle prone shooter. After earning 599 points in the qualification round, he scored 103.8 points throughout the final

(giving an overall score of 702.8 points), claiming gold. Sergey was one point ahead of the USA's Eric Uptagraft who took silver. Bronze was awarded to Poland's

Sebastian Rabalski.

According to the official website of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), Sergey Martynov is currently the world's top marksman, having won the World Championship events in 2010 and 2009. He's become Belarus' first sportsman to qualify for the Olympic Games in London. He also won the 2010 World Cup finals and, in 2011, took gold at the ISSF World Cup in Munich and silver at the ISSF World Cup in Sydney.

Sergey Martynov is seeded first worldwide and is a major favourite for the London Olympics. The outstanding athlete is yet to win an Olympic gold medal, although he already boasts two bronze medals (from the 2000 and 2004 Olympics).

He also has 11 medals from World Cup finals (5 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze), in addition to two World Championship golds and 29 medals from World Cup rounds (15 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze).

Medals and Olympic tickets

Belarusians win two medals at Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships

In French Montpellier, Lyubov Cherkashina claimed bronze in the finals for her exercise with the ball while the Belarusian national squad, comprising Lyubov Cherkashina, Melita Stanyuta, Anna Ryabtseva and Alexandra Narkevich, took the team silver. Cherkashina was the highest scoring Belarusian athlete in the all-round, finishing fourth, while Stanyuta came sixth. Both have now qualified for the London Olympics in 2012.

In total, nine sets of medals were awarded at the World Championships, with Russia claiming the largest number (13), followed by the Italians, Bulgarians and Belarusians.

Russian Yevgenia Kanayeva, a six-time world champion in individual exercises, topped the individual all-round, winning the exercises with the hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon. Her country mate Darya Kondakova took silver for the individual all-round, as well as for her hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon exercises. Both girls claimed a gold medal in the team event.

London Games 2012 — a new goal

By Yuri Kovalev

Belarusian wrestlers plan to repeat their Istanbul medal success at Olympic Games



Alim Selimov: victory claimed!

According to Belarus' Minister for Sports and Tourism, Oleg Kachan, the high results demonstrated by our Belarusian sportsmen at the Wrestling World Championships in Turkey are sure to inspire public interest. "I think that we'll see an increased interest in wrestling, since this sport is not too costly," he notes. "Wrestling is perhaps the most ancient sport. Even in the moments following our birth, we begin to struggle for existence; I think that as many people as possible should go in for wrestling."

Belarus earned six tickets to the 30th Summer Olympics, to be held in London in 2012, at the recent Wrestling World Championship. Alexey Shemarov claimed gold in

the freestyle wrestling (under 120kg category) while bronze was taken by Ruslan Sheikhov (under 96kg). In the overall freestyle team standings, Belarus occupied 8th place among 102 states.

The Belarusian flag was raised over the triumphal podium of Greco-Roman wrestlers, with Alim Selimov, winning a gold medal (84kg), and Elbek Tozhiev (55kg) coming second. Additionally, Timofey Deinichenko (96kg) occupied fifth place, allowing him to claim a ticket to the London Olympic Games. Belarus was ranked 4th among 100 countries in the overall men's team standings in Greco-Roman wrestling.

Belarusian athlete Vasilisa Marzalyuk (under 72kg) took bronze in the women's wrestling, with Belarus ranked 10th among 100 states in the overall women's team standings.

The Ministry for Sports and Tourism awarded the winners honorary certificates and financial prizes, while individual athletes received greetings telegrams from Alexander Lukashenko. The coaches of our Belarusian wrestlers have earned honorary mentions.

Alexander Medved, a three time Olympic champion and seven time world champion in freestyle wrestling, congratulated the young athletes on their successful results and noted that Istanbul had been a difficult venue since, 'wrestling is Turkey's national sport'. He underlined that 'work isn't yet finished, as there will be many more events before London'.

Three silver rowing crews



Natalia Gelakh and Yulia Bichik finish the distance

By Kirill Karin

Belarusian academic rowers earn three silver medals at European Championship in Bulgaria

The men's rowing boat and steerless pairs claimed medals, alongside the women's octet. After the World Championship, where Olympic licenses were up for grabs, the continental start in Bulgaria gathered

more modest participants. However, some of those who had won in Slovenia were present.

The rowing boat eight enjoyed the brightest race among Belarusian crews. Initially, Romania was viewed as the favourite, having remained unbeaten at European championships since 2007. They once again showed their supremacy, accelerating ahead of Belarus from the very first minute and finishing with a

huge gap of four seconds. Belarus, meanwhile, stayed comfortably in second place until the finish line.

Yulia Bichik and Natalia Gelakh took silver in the rowing boat doubles, despite being a complete flop at the World Championship in Slovenia. They did their best to catch up with the Romanian crew but failed. Kamelija Lupasku and Nikoleta Albu — undefeatable in European championships since 2009 — only allowed the Belarusians to approach once the finish line was in view and the results obvious.

Among the rowing fours, Greece was viewed as the favourite. They had come second in Bled, Slovenia, and were aiming to win in Plovdiv. Belarus' Stanislav Shcherbachyena, Denis Migal, Vadim Lyalin and Alexander Kozubovsky (all with Olympic places) were also eager to claim victory. Despite their spirit, Greece won the day, followed by the Belarusian boat in second place.