

Belarusians defeated Russians in table tennis

By Dmitry Baranovsky

Belarus' national table tennis squad has won the first finals match of the challenge division of the European National League, beating Russia 3:2

Young Alexandra Privalova played a core role, saving the day after Veronika Pavlovich's defeat. Together with Veronika Pavlovich, Alexandra claimed victory in doubles. Previously the Belarusian table tennis squad — Victoria and Veronika Pavlovich, Alexandra Privalova and Yelena Dubko — took bronze at the European Championship. At a press-conference, Victoria noted, "In previous years, many said that my sister and I had been the ones to solve problems for our national women's team but, today, I can confidently say that we have at least two more players who are a close 'third' to us, on the verge of reaching a high level."

The return match against Russia is to be held on November 29th.

Emirates as final destination

Head coach of Belarus' national football squad, Bernd Stange, announces players heading for United Arab Emirates' training forum prior to pair of friendly matches, scheduled for November 11th and 15th

The coach, soon to be replaced following his less than successful performance, has chosen the glamorous UAE for his final matches. Sadly, a scheduled match between Belarus and Slovakia has been cancelled. At present, only African Niger (80 percent covered by the Sahara Desert) is due to imminently face our squad.

The team is to comprise goalkeepers Sergey Veremko and Yuri Zhevnov, defenders Dmitry Verkhovtsov, Maxim Bordachev, Pavel Plaskonny, Sergey Omelyanchuk, Igor Shitov, Alexander Martynovich and Vitaly Trubilo, half-backs Alexander Kulchy, Alexander Bychenok, Stanislav Dragun, Pavel Nekhaichik, Sergey Kislyak, Timofey Kalachev, Anton Putilo and Vyacheslav Gleb and forward Sergey Kornilenko.

BATE Borisov holds up against Italian Milan

Borisov football club earns second point in UEFA Champions League group stage after home draw against Italian Milan — 1:1

By Dmitry Komashko

The Italian goal in the first half was the result of BATE's defenders falling for a cunning trip. Zlatan Ibrahimović, being off-side, didn't accept a pass from Robinho, but BATE was fooled enough to stop play, waiting for the referee's whistle. As no penalty had occurred, Ibrahimović (Swedish but of Bosnian origin), then rejoined the game, accepting a true pass from Robinho and sending it past BATE goalkeeper Alexander Gutor. The Borisov players equalised the score early in the second half, with a penalty for Milan's violation against Artem Kontsevoy taken by Renan Bressan.

The Italians are now through to the 1/8 finals ahead of time while BATE has enhanced its chance of third place. The squad is still to face Czech Viktoria, which played against Spanish Barcelona at Prague's Eden Stadium on the same day, losing 0:4. Victory over the Czech club on November 23rd would guarantee BATE a place in the 1/16



ALEXANDER RUZHECHKA

BATE's Marko Simić skilfully tackles Zlatan Ibrahimović from Milan

round of the Europa League finals, ahead of schedule.

BATE finishes its performance in the Champions

League group stage with an away match against Spanish Barcelona on December 6th. The two best teams

will go through to the playoffs while the squad placed third will continue onto the European Cup 1/16 fi-

nals of the Europa League — the second most important club tournament of the continent.

Another victorious match

Minsk Stroitel volleyball players achieve second victory in Super League matches of Russian Open Championship, where the Belarusian club is debuting this season

In the fifth match of the preliminary stage in the West Group, the Minskers defeated Dynamo Moscow at home: the silver winner of

the Russian Championships — 3:2 (25:18, 25:17, 22:25, 21:25, 15:11). Beforehand, Belarus' champion, which is debuting this season in one of Europe's strongest volleyball leagues, also beat St. Petersburg's Avtomobilist at home — 3:0. To date, Milan Zharkovich's trainees have lost to Kharkiv Lokomotiv — 1:3, Dynamo

Krasnodar — 0:3 and Iskra Odintsovo — 0:3.

After five stages, Minsk's Stroitel boasts five points and occupies sixth place within the West Group. Iskra leads, boasting 13 points, while Belgorod Belogorie has one point less; those from Kharkiv and Krasnodar have nine points each.



Another victorious match

Athletes showing their mettle

By Vladimir Dmitriev

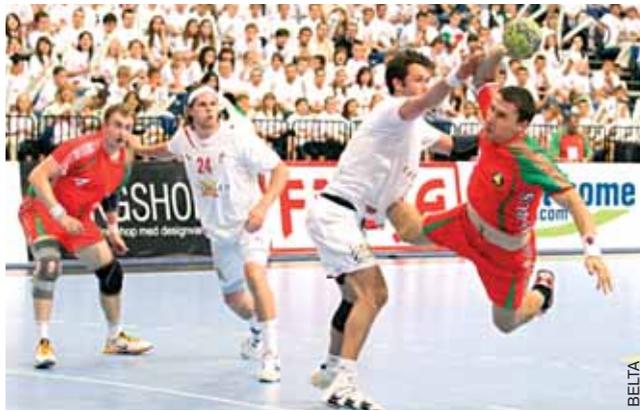
Belarusian kick boxers earn six medals (1 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze) at WAKO World Kickboxing Championships, hosted by Macedonia's Skopje

Yuri Zhukovsky (under 63.5kg) has won the K1 category, defeating Hyun Woo Yoo of South Korea in the finals. Sergey Skiba (under 54kg) took silver in the same category, losing to Russian Vadim Chasovskikh.

Dmitry Baranov (under 75kg) and Dmitry Valent (under 81kg) were placed third, finishing their performance in the semi-finals. Baranov has lost to Ljubo Jalovi of Serbia while Valent was defeated by Dmytro Kirpan.

Two awards were claimed in the Low-Kick category: Andrey Khamenok (under 67kg) was awarded silver, losing to Russian Shamil Abdulmedzhidov, while Yevgeny Makarov (over 91kg) also took silver, losing to Serbian Dragan Jovanović in the semi-finals.

National squad initiates attack



Belarusian handball strong in its traditions

Belarus' national handball team prepares for 2012 World Championship by playing national teams of Russia, Poland and Austria, in Polish Gdynia

The Belarusian team,

coached by Yuri Shevtsov, comprised the strongest players, including experienced Kazimierz Kotliński (Polish Olsztyn) and Sergey Rutenko (Spanish Barcelona), alongside new member Alexander Bushkov

(Polish Powen). Rutenko, the world's most expensive handball player, has been captaining the Belarusian team this season.

According to the head coach, these matches are a major stage in preparing for 2012 World Championship. The first match of the 7th qualifying group was held on November 2nd, with Romania defeating Luxembourg in an away match — 35:20.

The Belarusian squad is scheduled to play its qualification matches in early 2012: on January 4th, it will face Luxembourg in Mogilev and, on January 7th, will host a return match. On January 11th, it

will face Romania, with a return match taking place in Minsk on January 15th.

"Previously, we were concentrating on choosing a strong team with enough reserve players," explains Mr. Shevtsov. "Now, we're planning how to initiate attacks and achieve results."

Only the winners of the seven qualifying groups will go through to the World Championship finals, being joined by eleven participants of the 2012 European Handball Championship. The ultimate winner of the European tournament will automatically receive a place at the event, to be held in January 2013 in Spain.