

Kostitsyn on top form

By Dmitry Baranovsky

Belarusian Nashville forward Sergey Kostitsyn has missed four out of the last five matches with his team due to injury, but recently returned to the rink to face Anaheim

Playing alongside Canadian Mike Fisher and Czech Martin Erat, he spent less time on the ice than his partners, as his injury, received on October 27th against Tampa, was still bothering him a little. The Tampa match left Sergey unable to continue after being bumped by Brett Connolly.

Meanwhile, Andrey Kostitsyn, playing for the Montreal Canadiens, injured his leg during training. Fortunately, the damage is minor and both of the Novopolotsk hockey icons took part in the match between Nashville and Montreal, as Andrey was joined by his brother.

Belarusian NHL hockey player Mikhail Grabovsky, aged 27 and a forward with Toronto, leads, having earned 10 (5+5) points over the last 15 games.

Finally snatching victory

Basketballers from Minsk-2006 win first match of EuroChallenge Group Stage, defeating German Telekom Baskets Bonn at Minsk-Arena — 79:71

By Dmitry Komashko

The champions of Belarus faced the German club as if it was their final battle. Having suffered five defeats in a row during the VTB Single League, Minsk-2006 faced a difficult psychological situation. However, Andrey Krivonos' squad set their mind on victory. It was clear from the first minutes that the game would be tough and the Belarusian team only managed to equalise in the last quarter, thanks to Alexander Kudryavtsev and Alexey Trostenetsky. Two minutes before the final whistle, the squad then drew ahead by eight points.

Minsk-2006 and Turkish Izmir lead Group G after the first round of the EuroChallenge preliminary stage, set to meet in the first match of the next round. This will determine the group's leader, and the top two teams from each of the eight qualifying groups are to play in the next round of the EuroChallenge.



Belarus' champion defeats Telekom Baskets from German Bonn

Medal and Olympic tickets brought home from Paris

Belarus' national team wins one gold medal and eight places at London Olympic Games, after World Weightlifting Championships

By Ivan Rafalsky

Anastasia Novikova from Zhodino (under 58kg) claimed her gold medal on November 7th, after lifting 237kg over two events (101+136). 'Small bronze' in the snatch went to young Irina Kulesh (under 75kg), who lifted 121kg. She also came fourth in two other events, lifting 261kg (121+140).

Beijing 2008 Olympic silver medalist Andrey Rybakov (under 85kg) came seventh overall after lifting 368kg (178+190) across two events,



Anastasia Novikova shows how a championship is won

but did claim first place in one nomination. He has missed three previous years due to injury, so is still in training to regain his former fitness.

The Belarusian men and women's teams now have four places each at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The women's squad came fifth overall, behind Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Turkey, and received the maximum amount of places. The men's squad was placed 14th, earning four out of six possible Olympic places. Belarus sent its complete men's squad to the previous Games in Beijing in 2008.

Training matches hosted by United Arab Emirates

Footballers from national and Olympic squads take part in series of friendly matches

Our national squad's friendly match against Niger at Minsk's Dynamo Stadium was recently called off when the United Arab Emirates Football Association failed to agree the conditions with FIFA. Belarus next plans to battle Libya's national team, (ranked 65th in the FIFA ratings compared to Belarus' 61st). This will be the last for head coach Bernd Stange, whose contract is due to expire in November. The German specialist began heading the Belarusian national team on July 30th, 2007, and holds the record for their number of matches he has overseen as head coach: 48 in total (17 victories, 13 draws and 18 defeats, with a goal difference of 64-53). The match against the Libyans will be his 50th.

Our Olympic team, coached by Georgy Kondratiev, had its first match in Riyadh, where the Belarusians have already drawn against the Olympic squad of Saudi Arabia — 0:0, and are to meet the Olympic team of the UAE in Al Ain.

Polesie Cup won by guests this time

Gomel hosts 6th Polesie Hockey Cup

By Valentin Orlov

The national squads of Belarus, Denmark and Slovenia have joined Russia's second national team in battling for the trophy. Unfortunately, Belarus lost in all three matches of the tournament. They opened with a game against the Slovenians, which finished 0:6. The Slovenians demonstrated good play, using their numerical advantage to the utmost. Sadly, the Belarusian team, which has enjoyed this advantage many times, failed to use the most of its op-

portunities. In the next match, the hosts played better but were nevertheless defeated by Russia's second national team — 1:4. The Belarusians finished by meeting the Danes, who crushed them 8:2. The previous tournament, held in 2010 in Zhlobin and Bobruisk, brought together teams from Belarus, Austria, Denmark, Norway, France and Polesie, with the Danes claiming victory. This year Russia has won the tournament after a tough struggle.

The event was a 'trial by fire' for the new head coach of Be-

larus' national squad, Finland's Kari Heikkila. The Belarusian team has solved several tasks dealing with reviewing of its reserve players, as he explains, "There are promising players in the Belarusian championship, who could become useful for the national squad in future. I'm primarily interested in them and would like to give the new generation a chance to show its potential. In my opinion, there are defenders and forwards in Belarus' Open Championship who should be trialled for the national team."



Belarus' national squad plays the Danes