

## Yevgeny Gutarovich's silver finish

By Kirill Pirogov

### Belarusian sprinter placed second in Kuurne-Brussels-Kuurne one day cycling race

Australian cyclist Chris Sutton, 26, from the Sky team took first place in the race, being held for the 64th time in Belgium. He was brilliantly assisted by his team mates to perform a final spurt, leaving Belarusian Yevgeny Gutarovich, one of the leaders of the Française Des Jeux French team, to claim silver in the 193km event.

Chris Sutton is the first Australian to win the prestigious one day race. Sutton and Gutarovich left behind German André Greipel (the favourite), USA's Tyler Farrar, Norwegian Edvald Boasson Hagen and French Sébastien Chavanel.

Another Belarusian cyclist, Alexander Kuchinsky, from the Russian Katusha team, finished in the main group. In total, 122 athletes took part in the event.

## Advanced aerobatics

By Kirill Karin

### As freestyle jumping emotions from World Cup round remain fresh, Belarus again welcomes freestyle jumpers

In Raubichi, two European Cup medals were forthcoming for Belarus. Anna Guskova, 18, demonstrated a complicated and flawless programme, leaving her opponents standing. Ukrainian Anastasia Novosad and upcoming Belarusian Alexandra Romanovskaya, 14, also claimed medals, the latter being unexpectedly talented for her age.

Among the men, on the first day of the tournament, recent World Cup bronzeholder Denis Osipov and team mate Maxim Gustik affected confident jumps, only separated by two points, with Osipov leading. Ruslan Abylfitov of Kazakhstan closed the top three.

On the second day of the competition, Denis failed in his first attempt, leaving him in sixth place. However, Gustik proved a real joy to local fans; with two smooth jumps, he earned a considerable number of points, sharing his place on the podium with Abylfitov and Ukrainian Nikolay Puzderko.

After six rounds of the European Cup, Anna Guskova leads the women while Denis Osipov is positioned second.

# Fresh air and high spirits

About five thousand ski amateurs participate in *Minsk Ski Track 2011*, traditionally held at Raubichi Sports Complex near Minsk and organised for 25th time



Relay race graces *Minsk Ski Track 2011* sporting holiday in Raubichi

By Yuri Karpenko

The *Minsk Ski Track* is the final round of the Republican *Belarusian Ski Track Festival*, hosted by Belarusian regional towns and involving teams from physical institutions, educational

establishments and governmental bodies.

This year, the event celebrated its 25th anniversary, having begun in February 1986, when the first 15km skiing race was organised along the Minsk-Vitebsk motorway. Since 1996, Re-

publican Raubichi Centre of Olympic Training in Winter Sports has hosted the event. This year's race involved student teams, as suggested by the President of the Republic of Belarus, with those from the Belarusian State University winning. President

Alexander Lukashenko traditionally participates in the tournament and awards the winners with medals, diplomas and prizes. In total, 51 governing body teams took part, split into three groups, with Group A winning, as in previous years. The star

squad comprised Lyudmila Ananko, Alexandra Ionenkova, Sergey Bulygin and Alexander Lukashenko, who took the most honourable part of the relay, skiing in the final position.

Following the event, Mr. Lukashenko shared his impressions, expressing confidence that *Minsk Ski Track* will continue as long as people seek fitness. He also pointed out that, soon, Belarus will shift funds from the building of major sports sites towards the training of athletes. The President added that Belarus aims to see existing facilities produce victorious athletes who will bring prizes for the nation. According to the Belarusian leader, these plans could come true. "We have the means to train athletes and pay coaches, while having wonderful sporting sites; their job is simply to show results," he emphasised.

The *Minsk Ski Track 2011* included an entertainment programme. Thousands of Belarusians attended, with whole families arriving. Participants and fans were clearly charged with enthusiasm and healthy, high spirits.

## Minsk-Arena sets new records



Fans enjoy watching Dynamo Minsk

By Yuri Kovalev

### New record of attendance at Continental Hockey League match set up at Dynamo Minsk playground

16,039 spectators witnessed the second home match of the Gagarin Cup between Dynamo Minsk and Lokomotiv Yaroslavl. This broke the previous record of 15,982 people, set in Minsk during a match between the same teams. Dynamo leads the regular CHL championship, with an average attendance of 10,538 people. The statistic has not been spoiled by the fact that

five matches this season have been held at Bobruisk-Arena, which accommodates only 7,000 spectators. As expected, CHL match attendance records are likely to be set only at Minsk-Arena, the biggest ice stadium within the territory of the League, uniting the clubs of Russia, Belarus, Latvia and Kazakhstan.

Initially, sceptics viewed Dynamo as a weak opponent to Continental Hockey League 1/8 play-off favourite Lokomotiv. However, the Zubrs proved themselves via a bright performance at this stage of the tournament.

## Returning to the podium

### World Cup round in Padua brings two medals for Belarusian fencers: Dmitry Lapkes placed second in individual event while team takes bronze

Belarusian national fencing team leader Lapkes was seriously injured at the World Championship in November, depriving him of the chance of reaching the top three. However, fourth place in Paris proved that the disappointment relating to his failure to be selected for the Beijing Olympics is be-

hind him; the sportsman, aged 35, is still working to overcome the consequences of his injury. His World Cup round success is even more worthy when viewed in this light.

On the way to the finals, Dmitry confidently defeated his rivals, only losing to Korean Gu Bon Gil. Two years have passed since Lapkes' last medal, with the same period since our team has claimed a fencing prize: our last win was in Italian Padua in 2009. The recent competition lacked Valery Priemko (known as the number three on the

team in recent years), who was absent due to injury. With this in mind, the coaches sent Alexey Likhachevsky and Alexey Romanovich in turn to support Dmitry Lapkes and Alexander Buikevich, allowing the younger generation to show their potential, which they did successfully. Having defeated the Chinese and Korean squads, our fencers lost to the traditionally strong Italian team, which leads the World Cup overall standings. Belarus snatched bronze from world champion Russia, which is no mean feat.

## Yearly sports triumph makers

### More than 1,340,000 Belarusian citizens join professional jury in judging *Triumph: To Sports Heroes 2010*

The Ministry for Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus joined the National Olympic Committee, the Presidential Sports Club, and Beltelecompany in organising the event hosted by Minsk's Palace of Sports. For the first time in the history of this completion, the vote chose Olympic Vancouver freestyle jumping cham-

pion Alexey Grishin, who claimed two bronze statuettes. He was named 'Sportsman of the Year' and 'Brightest Moment of the Year'. As expected, biathlete Darya Domracheva, a bronze medallist at the Winter Olympic Games in Canada, was named 'Sportswoman of the Year'. Belarus' national basketball women's team, placed fourth at the World Championship, held in the Czech Republic, was recognised 'Best Team of the Year'. Its head coach, Anatoly Buyalsky, was a laureate in the



Twice winner A. Grishin

'Coach of the Year' nomination while the 'Will to Win' prize, traditionally handed to paralympic athletes, went to skier Dmitry Loban. Despite doctors' recommendations, he ignored his injury to participate in the ski race in Vancouver, winning bronze. 2010 Winter Games silver medallist Sergey Novikov was named 'Breakthrough of the Year'.