

## Ostapchuk inspires by example

**Belarusian athletes win gold, silver and bronze**

The 12th European Cup Winter Throwing Event, hosted by the Montenegrin town of Bar, has seen 2012 World Vice Champion Nadezhda Ostapchuk unrivalled in the shot putt among women. She sent her shot 20.29m, over a metre ahead of Nadine Kleinert from Germany — her closest rival. Bronze went to German Josephine Terlecki (18.59m), while Belarusian Yelena Kopets (17.83m) came 5th among 18 entrants.

The men's hammer silver went to 22 year old Sergey Kolomoets, a recent junior who sent it 75.15m. Russian Kirill Ikonnikov (75.95m) took gold while bronze was awarded to Hungarian Kristóf Németh (74.23m). Belarusian Pavel Boreisha, 21, claimed bronze (69.16m) in the junior hammer throwing nomination (for those under 23).

## Good result achieved

**Belarusian wrestlers win two medals at European Championship, held in Belgrade**

The first bronze went to Ivan Yankovsky (under 96kg) on defeating Polish Radoslaw Baran in his fight for third place. The second was claimed by Igor Dyatko (under 120kg), who beat Bartłomiej Bartnicki of Poland and Albanian Fatjon Baro before losing to Turkish Taha Akgül in the semi-finals. In his match for bronze, Igor defeated German Nikolay Matyukhin.

Young Dyatko and Yankovsky replaced more experienced athletes at the event: world champion Alexey Shemarov (under 120kg) and World Championship bronze-medallist (96kg) Ruslan Sheykhov. The veterans already have tickets to the Olympics, so were happy to allow the younger generation to take their places.

## Osipov flying high

**Belarusian freestyle jumper Denis Osipov placed second at Freestyle Ski World Cup round (aerials) at artificial slope in Moscow**

Of four participants in the super-finals, the Belarusian earned 116.06 points, losing to Chinese Jia Zongyang (124.89). Bronze went to Canadian Olivier Rochon (114.39). Dmitry Dashchinsky also did well, but the more experienced Belarusian jumper finished sixth, failing to reach the final four.

Other Belarusian athletes were knocked out after the qualification round: Maxim Gustik was placed 13th and Crystal Globe 2010 winner Anton Kushnir (suffering from a bad knee injury this season) was 18th out of 22 jumpers.

The closing round of the World Cup last Saturday was hosted by Norwegian Myrkdalen-Voss.

# Perfect finish as the final curtain fell

**Darya Domracheva has claimed two Small Crystal Globes in the recently finished World Cup; both prizes were won in Russian Khanty-Mansiysk, which hosted the final round of the biathlon season**

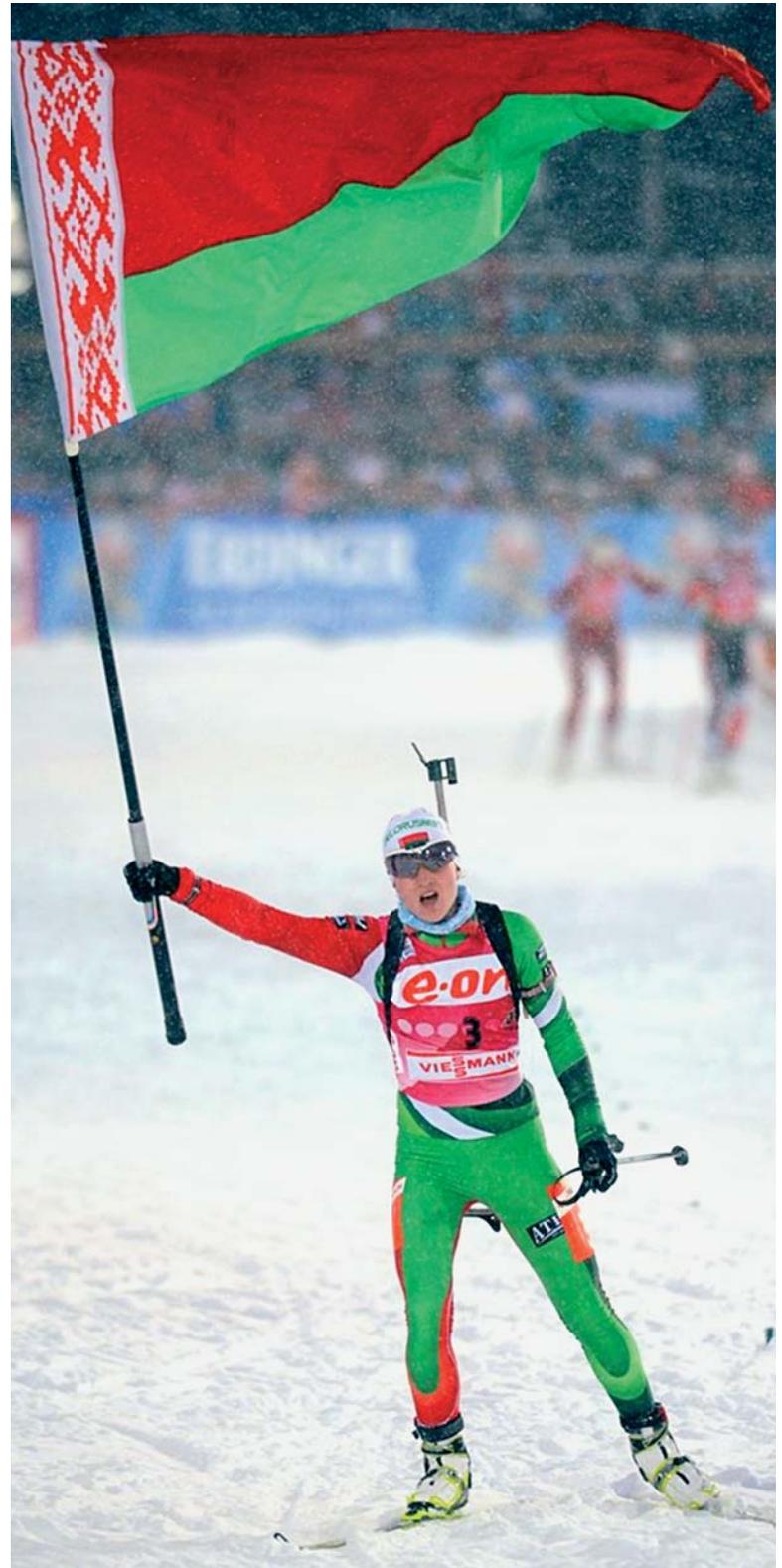
By Dmitry Komashko

The first trophy (the second of Domracheva's career) was for the pursuit. This year, she has done especially well in this event. After an obscure start (16th place in Östersund) Darya has never dipped below fourth place. In total, she boasts six medals for the pursuit and has claimed gold three times — including at the World Championships in Ruhpolding. This second Cup victory in a row for the pursuit has earned her the World Cup Small Crystal Globe in the discipline, as she has significantly outperformed her rivals.

In Khanty-Mansiysk, where Domracheva began her career, she took the mass start lead for the second time. She was also a leader of the season, several seconds ahead of Norwegian Tora Berger — her main rival alongside German Magdalena

Neuner. The latter was knocked out at the third shooting range, after suffering four misses. Darya hit every target, placing her well ahead of Tora: by 8.9 seconds. At the final shooting range, Berger moved ahead temporarily. Fortunately, Ms. Domracheva soon overtook again, keeping first place and earning her second Small Crystal Globe of the season.

The major Cup trophy — the Big Crystal Globe — has been awarded to Ms. Neuner, from her score in her best and one worst races of the season (as stipulated by World Cup regulations). Magdalena earned 1,216 points against Domracheva's 1,188, followed by Tora Berger with 1,054. Sadly, Magdalena Neuner and Helena Ekholm are now retiring from professional biathlon, which may make Darya's path easier but true victories are born from opposing worthy rivals.



Darya Domracheva celebrates with a flag on the finish of the women's 10km pursuit event of the Biathlon World Cup

## Victoria Azarenko dreams of Steffi Graf's record

By Dmitry Baranovsky

**22 year old Belarusian tennis player Victoria Azarenko wins another tournament**

This season, Victoria has maintained her unbeaten record, winning a major tournament in Indian Wells (USA). The victory brought her \$1m in prize money, following her defeat of Maria Sharapova of Russia — 6:2, 6:3 (seeded second).

The match began with Azarenko serving first. The pair managed to break each other's serves for the next five games until the score reached 4:2, when Victoria broke Sharapova's serve and took the set. In the second set, Azarenko led 3:0 and took the set, before finally pushing her opponent to lose the final set, by breaking her serve. Since the beginning of the 2012 season, Azarenko has won 23 singles matches in a row! However, she still has some way to go to beat Martina Hingis' 38 matches in 1997. Steffi Graf's record of 45 victories seems even more unreachable.

Azarenko's achievements are



Victoria Azarenko celebrates defeating Maria Sharapova of Russia to win their women's final match in Indian Wells

outstanding for contemporary women's tennis, especially as she has defeated almost the whole elite. Only the queen of last season, Serena Williams, has remained unbeaten, as has the 'thunderstorm' of modernity, Petra Kvitova. At

present, Serena and Petra are recovering from injuries but are due to meet Azarenko before too much longer. She has established herself as the current leader of world tennis, so the matches should be extremely memorable.

## Only knockouts ahead

**Five Belarusian boxers continue in play-offs of prestigious club tournament: World Boxing Series**

The World Boxing Series has ended its regular season, with five Belarusians going through to the next stage with their respective clubs. Sergey Korneev — the only Belarusian boxer to qualify for the London Olympics this summer — is sadly not among them, as his Los Angeles Matadors American club was defeated by the Bangkok Elephants — 2:3. Nevertheless, Korneev won his fight against Thai Kriangkai Sukkhum, earning his third win in a row within the World Boxing Series. His Belarusian team mates Ivan Figurenko and Yan Sudilovsky are also now knocked out.

The Thailand Elephants, which has Sergey Kuzmin from Belarus on the squad, is also out of the series, being placed last in the group. However, Kuzmin only lost one match in the World Boxing Series: to his countrymate Leonid Chernobayev. Victor Zuev's club, the Istanbul Bosphorus, is also knocked out, having lost unexpectedly to the Beijing Dragons.