

Water with golden glimmer

Belarusian champion and world record breaker Natalia Berdnikova celebrates double success at 53rd Masters Water Ski and Wakeboard Tournament in Orlando (USA) — one of the most prestigious water competitions

Natalia Berdnikova reached the women's finals in third place, but went on to leave her rivals standing, earning 9,520 points, setting a new record at the Callaway Gardens Stadium. In springboard diving, she took the lead after the first round, ahead of her opponents by 3m. In her best final attempt, Berdnikova jumped from 52.7m, winning a gold medal while again breaking the stadium's record. Alexey Zhernosek, a world champion and record breaker from Novopolotsk, took silver, while Belarusian Anna Streltsova debuted in the junior springboard diving, also taking silver — a high achievement for a novice.

New leader in Belarusian hockey

The Chairman of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation, Yevgeny Vorsin, has resigned, following the unsuccessful performance of the Belarusian national team at the World Championship in Finland and Sweden. Our squad, headed by Finnish coach Kari Heikkilä, was placed 14th among 16 teams.

The results were summed up at an extended session of the Federation's Executive Committee, where discussion regarding the country's most popular sport aroused hot debate. The General Manager of the team, Vladimir Safonov, has also been 'forced' to resign. Mr. Vorsin notes, "Despite there being no special claims regarding the organisational issues of the squad's preparation for the World Championship, I've always believed that a lack of result shows that mistakes have been made, including on the side of the Federation leadership — this reflects on me personally."

Veremeenko leaves for Turkey

Anastasia Veremeenko, central to Belarus' national basketball team and one of the country's most successful players, is changing club next season — moving from Nedezhda club to move to Turkish Fenerbahçe SK

She tells us, "Initially, I wanted very much to move to Prague and defend the colours of the Czech Championship. However, the head coach changed after the season ended for USK Praha, and the decision on his successor was delayed. Accordingly, when an alternative came from Fenerbahçe, I didn't ponder too long and signed the agreement."

Azarenko has performed while Mirny is still playing

Parisian Roland Garros courts host second Grand Slam tournament, the French Open, featuring Belarusian tennis players

By Ivan Rafalsky

Victoria Azarenko is a women's favourite at the tournament, still being ranked first seed. The Minsk player began confidently at the Roland Garros; after the defeat of American Serena Williams (who failed even to get through the first round of the competition — first in her tennis career) Victoria had a wonderful chance of winning the second Grand Slam tournament. Unfortunately, Azarenko has failed to reach further than 1/8 finals and Dominika Cibulková has become an irresistible obstacle for Belarusian player's ambitions. The Slovak tennis player, who until now has only once defeated Azarenko, has managed to sensationally get through to the 1/4 finals by winning a difficult match — 6:2, 7:6 (7:4). Other Bel-



Victoria Azarenko has managed to reach only 1/8 finals at Roland Garros

rusian tennis players have also left Paris: Olga Govortsova and Anastasia Yekimova.

Nevertheless, Belarusian fans are sure to be delighted by the men's doubles, where Max Mirny and Daniel Nestor of Canada (ranked

first seed as a pair) are ready to take the event by storm. In previous years, Max Mirny — who will celebrate his 35th anniversary on July 6th — thrice won the tournament in Paris: in 2005 and 2006 together with Sweden's Jonas Björkman and,

last season, with his current partner Daniel Nestor of Canada. This year, the Belarusian has a powerful start and Mirny and Nestor have defeated American duo of Scott Lipsky / Rajeev Ram — 6:2, 6:4 in 1/8 finals and aren't going to slow down.

Belarus' rivals at 2013 IIHF World Championship announced

International Ice Hockey Federation announces groups for 2013 IIHF World Championship preliminary stage, to be held from May 3rd-19th in Stockholm and Helsinki

Unlike the current World Championship, Belarus will have a team playing in Stockholm

which will be hosting the decisive stage of the 77th World IIHF Championship. In Group S, Belarus will face the Czech Republic (3), Sweden (4), Canada (5), Norway (8), Denmark (12) and Slovenia (18). Group H comprises the national teams of Russia (1), Finland (2), Slovakia (6), the USA

(7), Germany (10), Latvia (11), France (14) and Austria (15).

The four best teams from each group will go through to the quarter-finals, while the worst will leave the division. At 2012 world event, Belarus was ranked 14th among 16 teams, after one victory among seven matches.

Handball players prepare to fight

By Vladimir Dmitriev

Belarus' national handball team continues training for knock-out round of 2013 World Championship qualifier

Yuri Shevtsov's squad has enjoyed two victories over Ukraine — 30:24 and 31:20, playing at the Republican Centre for Olympic Reserve. The next stage will be hosted by Naro-Fominsk, near Moscow, with Belarus facing Russia and Norway, in June.

On June 9th, the team will battle the Slovaks in Košice and then



Belarusian handball players did everything they could

will have a return match at Minsk-Arena (seating 15,000) on June 17th. This will determine who goes through to the World Championship.

The Belarusian national women's handball team is also preparing for its final qualifier matches, having finished fourth at a vital

tournament in Turkish Antalya. On the final day, coaches Leonid Brazinsky and Konstantin Sharovarov saw the girls draw with Sweden — 30:30, after suffering defeat from Turkey (33:34) and Brazil (28:37). The team must now play its decisive match for a place among the elite teams of Europe.

Exact shots

Belarusian athlete Vitaly Bubnovich has won silver at a World Cup round in Italian Milan with 701.7 points in the men's pneumatic rifle shooting from 10m. Gold went to Italian Niccolo Campriani (702.7 points) while Sergey Kulish of Ukraine was third (701.5).

On the wave of convincing success

Belarus' national canoe and kayak rowing team does well at World Cup stage hosted by Polish Poznan

Our squad is returning with seven medals (5 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze) and is ranked first in the medals ranking. Dmitry Ryabchenko and Alexander Volchetsky won the men's C2 200m in the World Cup round, joined by Olga Khudenko and Marina Poltoran in the women's K2 500m.

Denis Garazha claimed victory in the C1 500m while brothers Andrey and Alexander Bogdanovich were unequalled in the C2 event over the same distance. Oleg Yurenya came first over the 5km marathon distance (as part of the men's kayak singles). Roman Petrusenko and Vadim Makhnev were awarded silver in the K2 500m while bronze went to Dmitry Ryabchenko and Alexander Volchetsky in the C2 500m. The World Cup round gathered teams from 66 countries, with medals won by representatives of 24 states.