

Regatta proves successful

By Sergey Vishnevsky

Belarusian yachtswoman Tatiana Drozdovskaya wins final Sailing World Cup in Laser Radial class in Kiel, Germany

After eight races, Ms. Drozdovskaya had scored 19 points. This was calculated as the sum of her placements (less her worst result of 4th place — in the seventh race) — 4+2+3+2+1+1+6. Silver went to Franziska Goltz of Germany (21 points) while Anna Weinzieher of Poland was third (25).

Before the final, eighth race, Tatiana was level with the German Olympic team leader, Franziska Goltz, (both on 13 points). However, she was ranked behind Goltz for the quality of her finishes. In the final race, she came 6th, two places above her rival, which earned her two points more in the overall standings at the traditional annual Kiel Week regatta.

The event is one of the oldest in the yachting world, having begun in 1882; this year, it was held for the 130th time.

At the upcoming 2012 Olympics, Ms. Drozdovskaya, 34, is to represent Belarus in the Laser Radial class. It will be her fourth Olympics to date (following Sydney-2000, Athens-2004 and Beijing-2008). In 2007, she became World Champion in Cascais, Portugal. She has also a prize winner of the World Cup and is twice European Cup champion.

Synchronised jump to gold

By Georgy Anikeev

Belarusian Tatiana Petrenya and Svetlana Makshtareva claim gold in synchronised trampolining at World Cup stage, hosted by Spanish Albacete

In the finals, the pair earned 48,200 points — ahead of Ukrainian Natalia Moskvina and Marina Kiyko (44,200) followed by Switzerland's Sylvie Wirth and Simone Scherer (42,800).

In the individual jumps, Ms. Petrenya (to represent Belarus at the London Olympics this year) came fourth, just 0.05 points behind bronze (55,080 points). Chinese Shanshan Huang (56,870) came first, followed by Dan Li of China (56,360) and Canadian Karen Cockburn (55,130). Ms. Makshtareva finished sixth (53,930).

Belarusian Nikolay Kazak and Vyacheslav Model failed to reach the finals, with Kazak finishing 13th (103,455) and Model 14th (103,290) among 47 entrants in the individual jumps. In the synchronised jumping, the pair came 11th (43,500) among 15 duos.

Model and Vladislav Goncharov took bronze in synchronised trampolining at the last World Cup, held in Chinese Taiyuan.

Girls almost in finals

National women's basketball team continuing successfully through European Championship qualification tournament, claiming four victories so far — over Israel and Ukraine, Hungary and Portugal

By Dmitry Baranovsky

Both matches were decisive to a greater degree for the Belarusian team in the current qualifying round. On the eve of the game against Israel, Rimantas Grigas' squad had serious 'staff problems', making the match more difficult. The opponent had failed to take our team seriously in past years and only conceded defeat in the fourth quarter, thanks to three point shots scored by Anastasia Vereemenko (who usually plays centre but had to cover the whole court during this game). Our girls made many errors yet still managed to claim a win. Meanwhile, Natalia Anufrienko has a dislocation while Alla Muravskaya's knee injury has her out of play for at least six months. Yekaterina Snytnina and Yulia Rytikova were also unable to play and Marina Kress and Victoria Gasper have back problems.

According to Mr. Grigas, a difficult flight schedule (35 hours flying time over three days) didn't help the situation.

Before the match in Ukraine's Yuzhny, the coaching staff of the Belarusian team faced serious problems, whose solution would influence the result of the match and the whole qualifying campaign. Victory would almost guarantee a place in the European Championship finals while

defeat promised uneasy matches in Hungary and Israel, since it would inspire more resistance.

Fortunately, there was no need for such speculation. By the first break, the Belarusians had already ensured a rather comfortable advantage over the Ukrainians — 27:22. In the third quarter, the hosts rallied, but were rebuffed by Anastasia Vereemenko. Their only opportunity was in the fourth quarter, when Tatiana Panchenko led the hosts forward — 38:37. However, the Ukrainians failed to keep their lead; within forty seconds, Vereemenko's exact shot had taken the Belarusian women ahead. The centre player of Turkish Fenerbahçe SK made a double-double (13 points and 13 rebounds), leaving no chances for the opponent and enabling her team mates to bring the game to victory without serious interference — 55:51.

"We expected the game to be difficult, since the squad was lacking three key players," noted Mr. Grigas after the match. "Fortunately, the remaining players demonstrated character and we managed to win."

Returning from Ukraine, the team's task in the current qualifying round has significantly simplified. In Group A, the girls are ranked first, boasting three points of advantage (ahead of Hungary). Rimantas Gri-



Yekaterina Snytnina plays against hungarian national team gas' trainees will face the Hungarians in Sopron on Saturday, which should settle their participation in the European Championship finals.

Bright performances in Mogilev

By Sergey Kulyagin

Celebration Viva-gymnastics! in Mogilev devoted to International Olympic Day

This year, on the threshold of the Summer London Olympics, the event was devoted to International Olympic Day. Guests were able to

see Mogilev Olympians of the past, including historical footage of their triumphant performances. The beauty and grace of the best students from the Bagima Specialised Children and Youth Olympic Reserve School were also in evidence, alongside the best musical, dance and sports teams of the city.

Sports fans were able to enjoy an impressive performance by Atlanta Games boxing star Vadim Mezga (also the World Cup vice prize-winner and European Championship prize-holder). The Master of Sports of the USSR and Honoured Master of Sports of Belarus delighted the audience with his show of skill.

Maxim Mirny earns 45th championship title in his career

By Kirill Karin

World first seeded Max Mirny of Belarus and Daniel Nestor of Canada win tennis tournament in London (with 625,000 Euro prize fund)

In the final match, the Belarusian-Canadian duo defeated their eternal rivals — the American brothers Bob and Mike Bryan (6:4, 6:3). On their way to the top, Mirny and Nestor crushed two Australian-American pairs: Lleyton Hewitt / Andy Roddick (6:2, 7:5) and Paul Henley / Eric Butorac (6:4, 6:3), alongside Indian duo Mahesh Bhupathi / Rohan Bopanna (7:6, 6:4).

Over his professional career, which began in 1996, the most famous Belarusian tennis player has won 45 ATP doubles tournaments with a selection of partners. Grass courts in the British capital have been a test of



Max Mirny and Daniel Nestor after their victory in London

strength for Mirny before the start of this season's third Grand Slam series tournament: Wimbledon (launched on June 25th). Partnering Daniel Nestor (and Victoria Azarenko in the mixed doubles), this will be the

last event before the London Olympics, where Azarenko and Mirny will jointly struggle for the highest places. Mirny will also partner young Belarusian Alexander Bury in the men's doubles at the Olympic Games.

Six handball clubs to play in European Cups

By Valentin Orlov

Three men's and three women's teams from Belarus to play in 2012/2013 European handball club tournaments

Dinamo Minsk — the champion of Belarus — is to play in the qualifying round of the major continental tournament: the Champions League. The season before last, Sergey Bebeszko's squad reached the group stage of the competition but failed to pass the qualification round last year. National championship silver medallist Brest's Meshkov HC is to play in the EHF Cup, while bronze Minsk SKA is joining the Challenge Cup.

The Belarusian women's champion handball squad, from the Belarusian National Technical University (Minsk), and silver medallist Grodno Gorodnichanka are to play in the EHF Cup, while those from Gomel will join the Cup Winners' Cup.

Belarus could send another men's and two more women's teams to these European events but no other squads expressed such desire.