

## Quite good beginning

By Egor Glebov

### Women's team of Belarus is first to win World League — as announced by International Hockey Federation

The World League was recently organised for the first time, with the first qualifying round involving teams with ratings of below 17th. The men were placed in eight groups while the women had six. Prague hosted the event, which featured two Belarusian teams.

The women defeated the French (9-1) and the Turks (17-1), allowing them to go straight through to the final four. However, they then lost to Scotland 1:2, which damaged their hopes for first place. Fortunately, the Scots were then defeated by the Italians (2:0). Our girls needed only to beat the Czech team, but failed (0-3) forcing them to defeat Italy for the title.

Initially, the Italians took the lead but, in the second half, the Belarusian team distinguished itself twice, proving its supremacy. The main coach of the Belarusian team, Samvel Kagramanyan, learnt only from journalists that his team had won, as the equal number of points led the overall goal difference to be taken into account. Our squad's score over the Turks saved the day.

## Hleb prolongs his contract

By Igor Leshin

### According to BATE FC press service, national team halfback Alexander Hleb has extended his contract with Borisov until end of 2012

In late July, Hleb, 31, returned to BATE — where he began his professional career in 1999. With many of its players in London for the Olympics, the Borisov club experienced staffing problems, leading BATE to offer Hleb a short-term contract until late August. At the time, he was keeping fit with his old squad. The former captain of the national team has been assisting Borisov in reaching the Champions League Group Stage, playing five matches with BATE (4 — in the Champions League qualification round and one in the Belarus Championship).

## Accompanied by prominent opponents

### Monaco hosts Champions League Group Stage draw

BATE Borisov is to play in Group F, facing Bayern Munich (last year's Champions League finalist), Spanish Valencia and French Lille. The Belarusian footballers will kick off the tournament by battling Bayern Munich. The head coach of BATE Borisov, Victor Goncharenko, is satisfied with the draw results, saying, "The first thing which comes to mind about the draw is its wonderful diversity. I'm pleased that, this time, we'll be pitting our strength against teams from very top rated championships."



The first throw at match dedicated to the memory of former captain of Belarusian hockey team given to Ruslan Salei's son, Sandro

# Cup brought to Chekhov

Vityaz club, from Russian Chekhov, has won the first hockey tournament in Minsk dedicated to the memory of the captain of the Belarusian team, who died in a plane crash: Ruslan Salei

By Valentin Orlov

In the final match, the Russians faced Dinamo Minsk and their defeat of Metallurg Zhlobin meant that they could win even with a loss of two goals. Dinamo, which had lost to the champion of Belarus, simply aimed to do its best. Defeat would leave the team to prepare for the start of Continental Hockey League.

In the 10th minute, the score was opened by Vyacheslav Kulemin, who sent Dinamo fullback Jonas Frögren sprawling on the ice; he flicked the puck past goalkeeper Kevin Lalande

in a cool fashion. A few minutes later, Dinamo equalised, taking advantage of two of their opponents being sent off the ice. The situation was only temporary however; just 31 seconds later, Artemy Panarin sent the puck into the net. Shortly before the end of the first period, Dinamo's Andrey Stas took a two-minute penalty, leaving guest forward Andrey Posnov to increase Vityaz's lead, establishing a final score of 3:1.

Dinamo had a few chances to redeem itself but coach Kari Heikkilä and fans were left disappointed on the eve of the new season. Mr. Heikkilä notes, "Our rivals used their opportunities while we didn't. One goal is insufficient. However, despite our



Cup in memory of Salei

defeat, today had positive aspects. The result is not as important as our teamwork." The wife of former Belarusian hockey team captain Ruslan Salei, Bethann, spoke of her husband at the closing ceremony, thanking the audience, players and organisers, as well as the family and friends of Ruslan, who supported her after her husband's death last September; his plane crashed near Yaroslavl. She noted that her heart would remain in Minsk. The older brother of Ruslan, Vadim, presented the winners from Chekhov with their cup. The event is to be held annually from now on.

## Football autumn arriving soon



In Israel, BATE draws with Hapoel

By Dmitry Baranovsky

### BATE again in Champions League Group Stage

The players won their first match in the play-off round, scoring 2:0 against Israeli Hapoel at Minsk's Dynamo Stadium. In the second match, their task seemed simple but the team from Kiryat Shmona had its heart set on a sensational 'come-back'.

Some say that attack is the best form of defence, so BATE was per-

haps unwise in playing too safely in the first half. They may have been too confident of a win and their safe play led to little in the way of entertainment. However, in the 67th minute, Lencse was given a penalty, and events took a downturn. Feeling a chance to catch up, the hosts occupied BATE's penalty area and, at least twice, almost scored. The fight continued until the fourth minute of additional time, when substitute Alexander Pavlov used a pass from Dmitry Mozolevsky to score; this settled matters once and for all.

"Until the middle of the second half, we had confidence but, after substitutions, our game deteriorated," admitted BATE coach Victor Goncharenko, after the match. "However, my team endured, having good character. It was difficult at the end, but we stood our ground."

This is BATE's third time in the final stage of the Champions League, having entered in 2008-2009 and 2011-2012.

## Medal count at Paralympics



Igor Bokiya swims for gold

By Igor Grishin

### Belarusian sportsmen win 'gold' and 'bronze' on September 2nd, making clutch of five medals

Igor Bokiya, 18, finished first in the 100m freestyle, while Lyudmila Volchok, 31, took bronze in the

rowing. Bokiya's result was a world and Paralympic record of 51.91 seconds. After her race, Lyudmila told us, "I began quite well but, by the middle of the race, felt my hands becoming numb — perhaps because I was nervous or because I wanted this medal very much. Thank God, we got bronze. The competition was extremely tough, with the Brazilian and the Israeli very close. There were no gaps between rivals, as there were in Beijing."

Earlier, Bokiya won gold in the 100m butterfly and silver for his 50m freestyle.

So far, Belarus has two gold, one silver and two bronze medals, occupying 22nd place. The top five comprises China (35, 24, 28), Great Britain (16, 24, 14), Australia (14, 11, 18), Ukraine (13, 8, 12) and Russia (12, 13, 9).