

## Golden race

By Igor Grishin

### Belarusian Tatiana Kukhta and Yekaterina Shlyupskaya earn gold in women's double sculls at European Rowing Championship, hosted by Italian Varese

In the 2,000m final, the Belarusian team covered the distance in 6:58.94 minutes. Silver went to Italians Giulia Pollini and Giada Colombo while bronze was claimed by Romania's Maria Diana Bursuc and Adelina Cojocariu.

Belarus came close to a medal in the women's eight, where Yekaterina Shlyupskaya, Anna Gavra, Yekaterina Bakhankova, Anastasia Skrobot, Natalia Gelakh, Tatiana Kukhta, Anna Nakhaeva, Anastasia Fadeenko and Yaroslava Pavlovich finished fourth. Just 500m before the finish line, they were in second place but allowed Italy and then the UK to overtake. Romania took gold.

In the lightweight women's double sculls, Belarus' Yelena Krivosheeva and Irina Leskova finished fifth in Final A (7:08.65). Italians Laura Milani and Elisabetta Sancassani (6:53.39) came first, followed by the Greek team (comprising Christina Giazitzidou and Alexandra Tsiavou — 6:57.62) and British Ruth Walczak and Imogen Walsh (6:58.87).

Belarus' Vadim Lyalin, Denis Migal, Stanislav Shcherbacheny and Alexander Kozubovsky advanced to the final, finishing fifth in the men's four while Yekaterina Bakhankova and Anastasia Skrobot came second in Final B in the women's pair, being ranked 8th overall.

# BATE's successful kick off

## BATE Borisov opens Champions League group round with sensational match, smashing Lille in France



Victor Goncharenko's squad gives us world level football

By Dmitry Baranovsky

Lille, having won bronze in the French national championship,

was considered to be a favourite in Group F. Moreover, the team enjoyed home support. The French squad began the match confidently,

pressing forward; however, the Borisov players responded calmly, organising a counterattack in the 6th minute, resulting in a goal by Alex-

ander Volodko.

The early goal was completely unexpected by the hosts, destroying their feeling of superiority and disturbing their strategy. Their confusion helped BATE score twice as a result before half time. In the second half, Lille's coach rallied them, and they became more aggressive, realising a corner kick. However, it was impossible to make up the lost ground, allowing BATE to enjoy a clear victory.

In previous years, the Borisov club has twice taken part in the group stage of the most prestigious tournament but has never enjoyed a win. "We trained vigorously for this match, including psychologically," notes BATE player Vitaly Rodionov. "We didn't expect to earn such an advantage before half time but our squad has really matured. Experience acquired over many years is beginning to yield fruit."

Commenting on the match, BATE Borisov head coach Victor Goncharenko is delighted by the 'historic' success but has warned BATE fans against presuming too much, saying, "It's too early to say that BATE will go through to the next stage. We've won one match but still have five to play. Nevertheless, a small step has been made and we now need to reinforce this in the next games."

BATE will play its second match in Minsk, on October 2nd, facing Munich Bayern: the absolute favourite of Group F.

Vasily Kiriyenko:

## 'I've always dreamt of being a World Championship professional medallist'

### Vasily Kiriyenko of Belarus earns bronze at UCI Road World Championship, in Dutch Limburg

Rechitsa-born Kiriyenko came third in the staggered start race, behind winner Tony Martin from Germany and Taylor Phinney from the USA. Kiriyenko covered 54km in 1 hour and 23 seconds, just 1 minute 45 seconds behind Martin. The race wasn't successful for young Belarusian Andrey Krasilnikov (a prize winner of the national championship); he has missed part of the season through injury and came a disappointing 53rd.

The medal was Vasily's first for an international road event, having taken gold and bronze in track cycling previously. In recent years, the 31 year old has cycled for Spanish Movistar team and, from next season, will be racing for one of the best cycling groups worldwide: British Sky. This was the first Belarusian medal in men's road cycling, although Zinaida Stagurskaya claimed a gold medal in the women's World Championship in 2000 and Konstantin Sivtsov did the same in the under 23 junior category in 2004.



Vasily Kiriyenko crosses finish line

## Decent performance by juniors

By Yegor Glebov

### Victoria Kovaleva and Yuri Belyaev win gold at international figure skating tournament in Minsk

Minsk-Arena hosted the *Ice Star* international figure skating tournament which featured dance singles and pairs, of all ages. Although held for the first time, it is now listed among the competitions eligible for International Skating Union rankings.

Dancers Victoria Kovaleva and Yuri Belyaev were the only Bela-



L. Volodenkova and V. Vakunov rusians to win gold, beating couples from Ukraine and Italy in the

junior nomination. In the adult category, Lesya Volodenkova and Vitaly Vakunov claimed bronze, as did Gomel's Kristina Zakharenko in the women's singles. In the junior category, our Pavel Ignatenko took silver for his compulsory programme. In the adult singles, Belarusian Vitaly Luchenok was awarded bronze.

The Gala Champions ice show was held at the end of the event, hosted by six ice stages across Belarus. Belarusian and foreign figure skaters took part, alongside celebrity skaters.

## Andrey Kulebin acknowledged as the best at the championship

### Belarusian Thai boxers claim 21 medals at World Championship in St. Petersburg

Belarusian wrestlers have claimed ten medals (3 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze) in the men's A class competition, in addition to four medals (3 silver and 1 bronze) in the women's event and seven in the junior event (1 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze).

In the men's competition, gold went to Andrey Kulebin (under 67kg), Dmitry Valent (under 75kg) and Denis Goncherenok (under 91kg) while silver awards went to Andrey Zayats (under 54kg) and Vitaly Gurkov (under 71kg). Bronze

was awarded to Alexey Bliznev (under 51kg), Artem Avanesov (under 60kg) and Dmitry Varets (under 63.5kg), Dmitry Abdullin (under 81kg) and Alexey Gerasimchuk (under 86kg). Belarusian Vitaly Gurkov was dissatisfied with the judge's decision to award gold to Russian Zainalabid Magomedov and boycotted the awards ceremony.

The Belarusian team came third overall (behind Thailand and Russia) in the most prestigious men's A class competitions. Many-time World Champion Andrey Kulebin was acknowledged as the best Thai boxer in St. Petersburg.

Among the women, silver went to Yelena Leshkevich (under 45kg), Lyudmila Chislova (under 48kg) and Yekaterina Verigo (under 60kg) while Yekaterina Vandarieva claimed bronze (under 54kg).

Oleg Likhtorovich (under 40kg) won silver at the junior event, alongside Vadim Vaskov (under 67kg) and Vladislav Mikhailovsky (under 81kg), with bronze awarded to Vasily Ivanov (under 42kg) and Lyubomir Starovoitov (under 75kg). Victoria Nesterenko (under 57kg) took the women's junior gold while Marina Monako (under 54kg) was awarded bronze.