

Ignatik defeats opponents from top 100

By Igor Grishin

The Tashkent Tennis Tournament has seen Belarusian Vladimir Ignatik defeat Slovak Lukáš Lacko in the final of the Tashkent ATP Challenger. Vladimir won the first game 6-3, and the second with a tie-break.

"I played Lukáš twice," notes Ignatik. "It's my biggest victory. This week, I beat two tennis players from the top 100. I'm happy that I've reached my goal of being among the top 150 worldwide. Now, I'll try to reach the top 100." Recently, he has been on good form. Lukáš Lacko admitted that his opponent deserved his win.

New coach — new hopes

Alexander Andrievsky appointed as acting coach of Dinamo Minsk after retirement of Finnish Kari Heikkilä, with plans to return the team to top eight in Western Conference by November, at Kontinental Hockey League Championship

During the previous two seasons, Mr. Andrievsky assisted the head coach of Dinamo Minsk, Marek Sikora, and was one of the assistants of Kari Heikkilä this season. Moreover, from October 2009 until the end of the season, he headed Dinamo Minsk after Glen Hanlon's retirement. In that time, the squad played 41 matches, winning 16, and were ranked 17th in the KHL regular championship. His achievements were crowned by winning the prestigious Spengler Cup in December 2009.



Alexander Andrievsky

"I've been working on Dinamo's coaching staff for many years so I don't have anything new to learn about them. Of course, there are definite plans and ideas, which must now be brought to life. The most important aspect at this stage is to improve our defence. I plan to tackle this issue first as, if we let in too many goals, we'll never win," notes Mr. Andrievsky.

The most experienced Czech specialist, Marek Sikora, has been invited to join Dinamo Minsk as a consultant, having headed the team for two previous seasons and twice taken our squad to the play-offs.

"We've worked with Marek for two seasons so won't need to spend much time adjusting. He knows everything about hockey and I don't doubt that his experience will prove extremely useful for the squad," adds Mr. Andrievsky. "We still have the task of reaching the play-offs before the November break; we'll aim this."

Football players' desire for victory aids revenge

National team footballers earn first 2014 World Championship selection round win — defeating Georgia 2:0 at Minsk's Dynamo Stadium



During match in Minsk, Belarusian team takes revenge for defeat in Tbilisi

By Yegor Glebov

On the eve of the match, the head coach of the Belarusian national team, Georgy Kondratiev, noted that his squad aimed to focus on its attack skills, while the line-up would differ from that seen recently against Spain. Belarusian fans were thus inspired to raise their hopes for victory, speculating on who would make up the 'first eleven'.

Mr. Kondratiev used a 4+3+2+1 formation, with Hleb and Renan Bressan as attacking halfbacks, unambiguously showing his deter-

mination to win. Absent from the match against Spain, Verkhovtsov was back on the pitch, alongside Polyakov, Pavlov and Bressan, creating a stronger team.

The squad began by opening the score in the 6th minute, after Stanislav Dragun threw the ball from the penalty area to Renan Bressan, who sent it powerfully into Reveshvili's net. They repeated their magic again later, with Bressan kicking the ball into the penalty area from the left wing, allowing Dragun to take the score to 2:0 with an overhead kick.

During the second half, Bela-

rus took the initiative again, while keeping Georgia away from its net. Opportunities for goals presented themselves again, as Alexander Pavlov twice brought Vitaly Rodionov into a shooting position. Sadly, Reveshvili saved the first attempt and the second hit the bar. The head coach of the Belarusian squad, Georgy Kondratiev, believes that his trainees fulfilled their goal of playing aggressively and pleasing fans with victory after three defeats at the beginning of the tournament. He feels that they did their best and could yet show their true talent before the

World Championship winter break. Of course, this season isn't yet over, with the team playing again on November 14th, against Israel.

The Georgian team coach, Temuri Ketsbaia, was disappointed in failing to claim even one point from Minsk but stressed that his squad had played better than they had during their victorious match in Tbilisi (1:0). He admitted that the Belarusian team was clearly stronger and deserved its victory.

The win pushes Belarus up from last place in the tournament table's Group I, above Finland.

Successful draw inspires confidence

By Kirill Karin

Belarus' national volleyball team is through to the European Championship for the first time and has been lucky in its grouping. Italy is an Olympic bronze holder but Denmark is a more modest rival, as are the European mid-ranked teams of Belgium and Greece.

The draw took place at the largest arena of the 2013 European Championship: Copenhagen's roofed Parken football stadium is to host the semi-finals and the final matches for the main title and bronze. The ceremony lasted just a few minutes, with teams drawn by old friend, smiling Belgian Willy Bruninx — the secretary of the European Volleyball Confed-

eration's Commission (who last oversaw the 2010 Men's Junior European Championship draw — hosted by Mogilev and Bobruisk).

Our Belarusian volleyballers' opponents are much as expected (13 out of 16 were chosen some time ago). Among them are the hosts, the Poles and Dutch, and the five top 2011 European Championship teams (discounting Poland): Serbia, Italy, Russia, Slovakia and Bulgaria. Others will comprise the winners of a second round: Holland, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany and France. Other places will be decided next spring-summer, following the results of play off matches. Croatia will play Slovenia, while Greece will meet Belgium and Turkey is to battle Latvia.



Dinamo Minsk defeats Hungarian Pick

Dinamo tastes victory

By Igor Leshin

Dinamo Minsk handballers enjoy success in 4th round of Champions League Group Stage

Sergey Bebeszko's trainees have defeated Hungarian Pick (Szeged) at Minsk's Sports Palace — 29:24: their first victory in this Champions League. The Minsk team had previously lost in away matches to German Berlin — 25:29 and to Spanish Barcelona — 24:25, and drew in a

home match against Croatian Zagreb — 27:27.

Dinamo is ranked fourth in its group, with three points, which could be enough for them to reach the next round of the major continental club tournament (the top four go through). Belarus' champions are next to play in Minsk on November 11th, facing Swiss Schaffhausen, who are not a favourite of the group and should be easily defeated by Dinamo.