

# Gold, silver and wealth of bronze medal

Belarusian athletes win 17 awards at World Sambo Championship, hosted by Minsk

By Dmitry Komashko

Stanislav Kolbasov (combat sambo) and Yuri Rybak (sport sambo) took gold while silver went to Andrey Kurlypo, Dmitry Bazylev, Eduard Muravitsky, Olga Leshchenko and Olga Namazova. Ten more Belarusian athletes claimed

bronze.

As expected, those from Russia took the lead in the medals rankings. Belarus was placed second, as at the World Championship in Vilnius last year, followed by Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Bulgaria. The tournament brought together around 500 athletes



Stanislav Kolbasov (Belarus) wins World Championship title in combat sambo (under 100kg)

and was one of the most representative in sambo to date, boasting delegates from 64 states.

The head coach of Belarus' national team, Vyacheslav Kot, notes that second place in the team standings was a good result

but that they continue to aim for even more. "I think that performing at home negatively influenced our athletes," he emphasises. "They felt extra pressure to perform well at home. This excessive anxiety made it more difficult than we ex-

pected. In addition, foreign sambo wrestlers who aren't usually considered serious rivals significantly raised their level, which also made earning medals more challenging."

The most surprising result was Stanislav Kolbasov's gold in combat sambo — a first for Belarus. Most of the competitors will reappear for the next major tournament, hosted by Minsk in February 2013: a World Cup stage for prizes awarded by the President of Belarus.

## Win for Kondratiev's team



During the Israel-Belarus match

By Dmitry Baranovsky

**National football team complete season with friendly match against Israel**

Georgy Kondratiev's squad met the Israeli team in

Jerusalem at the Teddy Stadium. The match was full of intrigue, despite being only a 'friendly', with the final score remaining uncertain until the very end.

In the first half, there were few thrills, with a slow

pace of action evident. However, each side still managed a goal, with the first scored by the hosts in the 19th minute, when Omer Damari took advantage of Yegor Filipenko's error to slip the ball past Belarusian goalkeeper

Sergey Veremko. Our team responded with several attacks, one of which, a few seconds before halftime, brought the desired result. Sergey Kislyak equalised with a long-range shot.

As soon as the second half began, Sergey Balanovich managed another goal for Belarus, outmanoeuvring Israeli goalkeeper Dudu Aouate. The fast, long-range shot forced the hosts to become more active, but Kondratiev's team was ready for this. Several potential scoring moments were the result, with Belarus setting up more shots at goal than their rivals, but the score remained at 2:1.

Israeli has beaten Belarus on its three previous meetings, making this our squad's first victory against its rival. "I'm satisfied with the team's play," stressed Mr. Kondratiev after the match. "They managed to change the course of the game after that first goal."

## Named champions for seventh time in a row

By Igor Grishin

**Two games before the final matches of the National Championship, BATE has already secured victory, becoming the national champion for the ninth time to date — the 7th time in a row**

On November 11th, on their home field, BATE defeated Minsk 5:1, placing

them unreachably ahead of their nearest rival: Soligorsk Shakhtyor. The latter had defeated Neman in Grodno (4:0), guaranteeing its silver medal in advance, for the third year in a row. Minsk Dinamo and Gomel are now vying for third place, with Minsk on 53 points after 29 matches. Gomel has 50 points but one more game to play.



Young teams of Belarus and Austria during play

## Winning Telfs Cup

By Yegor Glebov

**Junior (U20) national hockey team of Belarus defeats Austria (1:0) in Austrian Telfs, claiming major prize of international Telfs Cup**

Roman Kolenchukov, a forward with Bobruisk Dinamo-Shinnik, scored the only goal, at the start of the third period, while playing in majority. In another match on the final day of play, Latvia's junior team beat Denmark 5:1, ensuring second place.

In December, the Belarusian team is to go to French Amiens to play in the World Championship's Division I, in Group A. The junior squad of Belarus last performed in this division in 2006/2007. They'll be facing peers from Denmark, Norway, Slovenia, Austria and France (from December 9th-15th).

Last season, the team was headed by Bobruisk's Dinamo-Shinnik coach, Vladimir Zablotsky, who led them to second place in Division I Group A, losing out to the hosts: Germany.

## Battle for tickets to Sochi

By Igor Grishin

**Belarus' national hockey team to face Denmark, Slovenia and Ukraine for Olympiad-2014 tickets**

Last weekend saw three pre-qualification Olympic tournaments, won by teams from the Netherlands, the UK and Ukraine. They are now through to the Olympic qualification round

in early February. Ukraine is joining Denmark (ranked 12th worldwide), Belarus (13th) and Slovenia (18th) in Group F.

On the eve of the pre-qualification tournament in Kiev, a Belarusian national team experimental line-up played two friendly matches with our southern neighbours in the Ukrainian capital. The Belarusian squad, headed by Gomel team coach Andrey Ska-

belko, won the first match (2:0) while finishing the second with a draw (2:2).

The qualification round is being hosted by Danish Vojens from February 7th-10th, 2013, with Belarus facing Slovenia first, and then Ukraine. It is likely that the game on the final day of the tournament, against the Danes, will prove decisive. The winner of the group will then go through to the Olympics in Sochi.