

Bronze swim

Belarusian women's national swimming team takes third place in 4x50m freestyle finals at European Short Course Swimming Championships, hosted by French Chartres

In the decisive swim, the Belarusian squad — comprising Yulia Khitrava, Alexandra Gerasimenya, Oksana Demidova and Svetlana Khokhlova — gave a time of 1 minute 38.39 seconds. Denmark came first (1 minute 38.10 seconds) followed by Finland (1 minute 38.13 seconds).

Twice Olympic silver medallist Alexandra Gerasimenya (2012) did best in her group during the second stage of the relay (23.68 seconds) being the only one to swim in under 24 seconds. She took the Belarusian team to first place while her partners, Oksana Demidova and Svetlana Khokhlova, managed to preserve places in the 'prize trio' over the next stages. The girls came third in the qualification swim (1 minute 39.69 seconds).

Real chance to be among the strongest

Dinamo Minsk handballers claim third victory in a row in Champions League Group Stage

Belarus' champions have convincingly defeated Swiss Schaffhausen in an away match — 33:28. Throughout, they dictated the pace and seized the initiative. Maxim Babichev became a hero of the match, playing despite a broken nose and scoring six goals — only matched by Vasko Sevaljevic, Dinamo's Montenegrin legionary.

This is the third victory in a row for Sergey Bebesheko's trainees in Group D. In the previous match, Dinamo defeated the Swiss at home — 33:23. Meanwhile, they claimed a win over Hungarian Pick at Minsk's Sports Palace in the previous round — 29:24. They drew with Croatian Zagreb at home (27:27) but suffered two away defeats: from German Berlin (25:29) and Spanish Barcelona (24:25).

The champions of Belarus are performing in the group stage of the major continental tournament for the second time. Having failed to reach the play-offs two years ago, they now have a real chance of joining the top 16 teams in Europe.

Minsk's Tsmoki begins to stretch its wings

Basketball club begins new season less than successfully but remains hopeful

By Dmitry Baranovsky

A late start in the selection campaign forced the head coach of the Belarusian squad to make some last minute adjustments. Its performance in the play-offs of the EuroChallenge — Europe's third most important club tournament — was vital; facing French Nancy at Minsk Arena, defeat meant automatic expulsion while victory would enable us to continue our struggle.

The French were tackling a similar dilemma, resulting in a fierce struggle for the ball from the outset. The Minskers managed a five point gap by the end of the second quarter but failed to take this further after the break. Outside shots by Juan Smith and Alexander Kudryavtsev were soon matched by close basket shots by Marcellus Sommerville and Herve Toure and it was truly the final minutes which decid-



Tsmoki-Minsk club during match with CSKA Moscow

ed the game. Kudryavtsev was the most useful player of the match, realising two

penalties after Torrell Martin's falls, bringing the final score to 78:71 with a spec-

tacular shot.

The victory over Nancy, alongside French Grave-

lines' defeat by outsider Apollo Cyprus, has enabled Minsk to top Group G.

Olympia in play-offs

Grodno's Olympia female basketballers reach play-offs after successful performance in EuroCup Group Stage

The last match in Group B was hosted by Brussels on November 28th, between Lotto Young Cats and French team Saint-Amand. The result of this game doesn't have

a meaning for the tournament, since French and Belarusian female basketballers had already qualified for the 1/8 finals.

Belarusian champion Minsk Horizont will play its final match in Group E today at Minsk's Sports Palace, against Swedish Södertälje, fighting for a place in the 1/8 finals.



Alexandra Gerasimenya swims for gold

Short water gold

Alexandra Gerasimenya wins her first European Short Course Swimming Championship

Belarusian Alexandra Gerasimenya has won gold in the 50m freestyle at the European Championship in French Chartres. Her final time of 23.85 seconds topped her national record by 0.1 seconds, outstripping her closest rival, Triin Aljand from Estonia, by 0.39 seconds. Bronze went to Jeanette Ottesen Grey of Denmark (+0.48 seconds) while Belarusian Svetlana Khokhlova came sixth.

The Belarusian national

swimming team claimed three medals at the European Short Course Swimming Championship in France, including the 4x50m women's relay bronze: Yulia Khitrava, Alexandra Gerasimenya, Oksana Demidova and Svetlana Khokhlova. Ms. Gerasimenya added 50m butterfly silver to her gold.

Yevgeny Tsurkin came fourth in the men's 50m butterfly, with a time of 22.83 seconds (0.11 seconds behind Ukrainian Andrey Govorov, who took bronze). Impressively, in the semi-finals, Yevgeny set a national record of 22.78 seconds.

BATE through to next round of Europa League

By Vladimir Dmitriev

The Borisov footballers lost to Lille in the fifth match of the Champions League Group Stage, which was decisive for both teams — although in different ways. Victory by a wide enough margin would enable the French club to continue its performance in the EuroCup while BATE's victory would bring it to the Champions League play-offs. Sadly, neither dream was fulfilled.

After victory over Bayern and a rather good performance in the Champions League Group Stage, BATE and its fans were undoubtedly hoping to see the team continue along its path to the strongest squads of Europe. Everything was going well against their modest French rival, with a more than confident win for BATE of 3:1; however, their home match proved a disappointment. Thick fog over the Dynamo Stadium in Minsk and the pressure of performing to a home crowd may have shaken the team. The French seized the initiative, scoring in the 14th minute; a rare counterattack by the French finished with a perfect kick by



BATE footballers fail to defeat French Lille

Djibril Sidibé, from the right corner of Andrey Gorbunov's penalty area — bringing the score to 0:1.

BATE had several chances of pushing forward and could have even taken the lead, at least three times threatening Steeve Elana's net, but attacks by Alexander Volodko, Edgar Olekhovich and Vitaly Rodionov failed to succeed. Lille counterattacked, with Belgian legionary Gianni Bruno converting a pass from Lucas Digne into a goal. The situation continued in the same vein after halftime, with both sides vying for supremacy yet without more goals scored. Even the sending off of Djibril Sidibé didn't help Belarus

change the score. The French, meanwhile, were eager to score at least once more to keep their place in the Europa League.

BATE is through to the Europa League play-offs and should learn some lessons from its match. Head coach Victor Goncharenko, Belarus' nine-time champion, notes that his trainees 'failed to play at Champions League level'. In the first half, Borisov had perfect opportunities to equalise but failed to do so; the players' strength seemed exhausted.

BATE's last match in this Champions League will be held on December 5th in Munich, against local Bayern.