

Darya Domracheva has climbed the medals podium already twice

The current World Cup has proven very special for one of the leaders of the previous season, Belarus' top biathlete. The absence of German Magdalena Neuner (the main contender who has claimed most world titles in recent years) left Domracheva with a much better chance of success and a true opportunity to seize this year's Big Crystal Globe. Darya is not concealing her ambitions.

The mixed men's relay began with the World Cup first stage in Östersund and ended in a fiasco for Belarus. Vladimir Alenishko, who was in third place by the third round, failed to overcome his nerves on the shooting range and almost deprived his partners of any hope of a worthy place, leaving fans to pin their hopes on the individual events.

None were able to hamper Domracheva, who performed perfectly in the first race: the 15km individual. Despite two misses adding two minutes to her time, she finished just one and a half minutes behind the winner,



Darya Domracheva took second place at the women's 15 km individual event in Östersund

Norwegian Tora Berger. Russian Yekaterina Glazyrina, who came third, missed none of her targets but was two minutes slower than Domracheva.

Darya faced worsening weather conditions in the sprint, while Berger (her major rival) missed only once to Domracheva's three misses. It was impossible to catch up an additional 0.5km of penalty laps over just 7.5km, even for the speedy Belarusian, leaving her in a disappointing seventh place.

The Sunday pursuit saw Darya 38 seconds behind Berger, who

started first, and it was no easy task to catch up. Unfortunately, a miss at the third shooting range prevented Domracheva from outpacing the Norwegian. Nevertheless, she finished a pleasing second.

After the finish, the Belarusian complained that frosty conditions had prevented her from skiing as quickly as she would have liked but that her absence of gold victories would only spur her on.

"The weather was very icy and my fingers became frozen.

Moreover, our service crew had problems with its selection of lubricants. I had no thoughts of outstripping Tora or anyone else, just concentrating on my own race. The season is long so I'll have plenty of opportunities to battle Berger in coming months."

The struggle promises to be difficult. After the first stage, Ms. Domracheva is ranked second in the World Cup standings (144 points), behind Tora Berger, who won three races in Östersund — the individual, spring and pursuit (180 points).

Another high status for Sergey Rabchenko

Belarusian professional boxer defends European championship title at Manchester Arena in 12 round match against French Cédric Vitu and claims vacant WBC silver belt

By Igor Grishin

"I grew exhausted, having trained for around four months. Usually, you need far less than 12 bouts to claim a win but my match was moved from the 4th to 24th November, which brought three more weeks of intensive training. Of course, this influenced my condition but the

result is evident. I hope that I'll soon have the WBC gold belt in my collection."

He admits that the match brings not only a title and belt but experience. "This was valuable in showing me how to continue for 12 rounds — something I've only endured once before. I usually finish much earlier, in the sixth round at most. The meeting in Manchester has shown me that I need to double my efforts."

Sergey Rabchenko won his

first European championship title on June 16th, 2012, after defeating five-time British champion and twice European champion, Ryan Rhodes, in seven rounds. Since then, he has trained hard to defend his title, coached by world boxing star Ricky Hatton: his promoter for over a year. Mr. Hatton initially spotted Sergey's great talent and potential. Rabchenko remains unbeaten in the professional ring, boasting 22 victories (with 16 knock-outs).

Retro is all the fashion

By Igor Leshin

Dinamo Minsk hockey players to play in retro-uniforms at Minsk-Arena on January 3rd

The event will be dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Dinamo sports society — the country's oldest and largest. The design of the uniforms to be worn on January 3rd is based on samples worn by 1980s players.

Fans will be able to bid for hockey jerseys worn by Minsk Dinamo at auction and other events will be dedicated to the anniversary.

Hockey and handball clubs representing Belarus in the Continental Hockey League and Champions League are developing under the Dinamo Society. Dozens of Olympic medals and top international awards at tournaments in diverse sports have been won under the blue-and-white Dinamo banners.

Dakar to test strength of people and vehicles

Belarusian MAZ-SPORTavto team in good form for Dakar-2013 rally — setting off from Peruvian capital of Lima, on January 5th, and finishing in Chilean capital of Santiago, on January 20th

Over recent months, the crew has been undergoing intensive preparation, fine tuning the engines of the MAZ cars destined for the rally. The first race car has a new cab and frame, with a new coat of paint and lighter bridges to reduce its weight. Recently, two racing cars and two technical support cars arrived in the French port city of Le Havre, for technical inspection before departure for Latin America.



The MAZ-SPORTavto team has been training for the Dakar rally in the United Arab Emirates and are due back on November 27th. Two Belarusian crews of three people each are to take part.

Paris has already hosted the launch of the 35th Dakar race, with participants approved: 75 trucks, 155 cars and jeeps, 189 motorcycles and 40 quads — 459 vehicles in total.

MAZ-SPORTavto took part for the first time last January, coming 31st among 77 teams at Dakar-2012. The crew at the finish line comprised driver Alexander Vasilevsky, navigator Valery Kozlovsky and engineer Dmitry Zaporoshchenko — all to participate again this time.

