

Precision landing for skydivers

By Igor Grishin

Belarusian Oleg Fomin becomes absolute champion in classic skydiving at 22nd World Championship in Dubai

Oleg Fomin took third place in classical skydiving with precision landing and, in the individual acrobatics, missed out on a prize but his total score for the two disciplines gave him the title of absolute world champion. Oleg's wife, Oksana Fomina, took part in the individual women's classic skydiving event, claiming bronze for precision landing. In the team event, the Belarusian male and female skydiving squads also took bronze.

Two teams in top 16

By Yegor Glebov

Grodno Kommunalnik volleyball squad follows Minsk Stroitel into 1/8 finals of Challenge Cup



Over the last five seasons, the winners of the Belarusian championship have managed to reach this distant shore four times. For the past two years, we've had two teams in the 1/8 finals. Last time, Minsk Stroitel was joined by Zhlobin Metallurg; today, Grodno's Kommunalnik has taken the honour.

Minsk Stroitel reached the 1/8 finals of the Challenge Cup confidently, leaving no chance for Romanian Dinamo, from Bucharest. In the first game of the 1/16 finals, Stroitel lost 3-0 but bounced back to defeat Bucharest with the same score. Alexander Singayevsky's team will next face the stronger of Levski (Bulgaria) or Olympiakos (Greece).

Grodno Kommunalnik, led by Victor Bekshi, flattened Aris with a score of 3-0 in its first game, followed by another victory on the return visit: 3-2. The next round will see them battle Russian club Ural, from Ufa.

The first matches of the 1/8 finals for both Belarusian clubs are to be held in January 2013, with the teams facing their rivals away.



Alexandra Gerasimenya (left) after her golden swim

Alexandra Gerasimenya — world champion!

By Dmitry Baranovsky

In her final swim, Alexandra swam her distance in 23.64 seconds, setting a new national record. Silver went to Francesca Halsall from the UK (23.87 seconds)

while bronze was awarded to Danish Jeanette Ottesen Gray (24.00 seconds).

On her way to victory, Ms. Gerasimenya swam ever faster through each round, having led in the first round with a time of 24.27 seconds.

The titled Belarusian swimmer managed to cover the same distance within 24.13 seconds in the semi-final, allowing her to qualify for the finals in first place. In the final, the UK's Francesca Halsall was just 0.23 seconds

behind.

Gerasimenya's award was the only one claimed by the Belarusian national swimming team in Istanbul. She failed to qualify for the 50m butterfly final, being in 11th place. She qualified

for the 100m medley final but came only fifth despite having broken the national record of Belarus twice in this event. Unfortunately, our other Belarusian swimmers only reached the semi-final stage.

Struggle for Crystal Globe becoming much tougher

Nadezhda Skardino's took the third place, showing the best result among Belarusian biathletes in Pokljuka

By Valentin Orlov

At the World Cup event in Pokljuka, everyone expected to see Darya Domracheva climb the medals podium. However, it was Nadezhda Skardino who rose to the challenge, taking bronze in the sprint, behind Czech Gabriela Soukalova and German Miriam Gössner.

Domracheva was initially absent, despite needing success in as many events as possible to help her in her quest for the Big Crystal Globe. The third round of the World Cup hardly helped her, since Ms. Domracheva missed the sprint and pursuit due to illness. Nine misses in the mass start left her in disappointing 21st place.

A week ago, Nadezhda came seventh in sprint but failed to reinforce her brilliant marksmanship with speed. Everything came together in Pokljuka's 7.5km sprint, with no misses at



Nadezhda Skardino on the track in Pokljuka

either of the two shooting ranges. Her result of 22 minutes 39.9 seconds left her just 30.1 seconds behind the winner, Czech Gabriela Soukalova.

The performance is the best of her career to date at the World Cup and is her first medal at the event. Beforehand, Ms. Skardino's highest achievement was fourth

place at the 2011 World Championship in Russian Khanty-Mansiysk (individual race). In the pursuit, she missed one shot, which left her in sixth place. However, she gained the right to a front line position in the mass start, alongside newly recovered Domracheva.

Unfortunately, the girls failed to build on this, with Darya's marksmanship going downhill from her second arrival at the shooting range and Skardino missing four shots at the second shooting range. Both finished only in the third dozen.

Ms. Domracheva's major World Cup rival, Norwegian Tora Berger, did not perform brilliantly, although she remains an impressive 124 points ahead. Gabriela Soukalova, Miriam Gössner and Andrea Henkel have now interposed themselves between Berger and Domracheva, ensuring that the struggle for supremacy remains thrilling for the whole biathlon season.

Basketball players to reach new heights

Basketballers of Tsmoki-Minsk perform successfully at preliminary stage of EuroChallenge, reaching 1/8 finals of continental tournament for first time

Tsmoki-Minsk has opened a new page in the history of Belarusian basketball, defeating French Nancy in the final round of the group stage of EuroChallenge. Artem Madzhok scored the most goals, with eleven balls in the net. Alexander Kudryavtsev managed ten while Pavel Ulyanko enjoyed nine.

The champion of Belarus has now reached the top 16: a first for our country in the men's FIBA Europe event.

The final standings in Group G were Gravelines (France) — 10 points, Tsmoki-Minsk — 10, Nancy — 9, and Apollon (Cyprus) — 7.

At the second stage, Tsmoki-Minsk is to play in Group L, facing Bonn, Oldenburg and Okapi. Their first match will be on January 15th, 2013, as guests of Oldenburg; on January 22nd, they'll battle