

Partners remain pleased

By Igor Leshin

Škoda representatives view preparations for 2014 IIHF World Championship in Minsk

A delegation from the Infront Sports & Media Marketing Agency (an IIHF commercial partner) has joined those from Škoda (an IIHF official general sponsor) in visiting Belarus, to assess progress in preparing for the event in Minsk. The Ice Hockey Championship is to be held in Minsk from May 9th-25th, 2014.

The guests toured Minsk Arena to study seating arrangements, considering the approximate location for the Škoda cars which are to go on display, and looking at the premises set aside for use by Škoda representatives during the Championship.

Other issues relating to the 2014 IIHF World Championship Škoda promotion campaign were also discussed, including the official opening of a new showroom in Minsk in April and the organisation of a Motor Show in the Belarusian capital in May.

Tickets available from September

Organisers determine ticket costs for 2014 IIHF World Championship

Oleg Mikhailov, the Head of the TsentrKurort Centre for Sanatorium Work, under the Presidential Property Management Directorate, has announced that tickets for the 2014 Ice Hockey Championship, being hosted by Minsk, will be priced from as little as 10 Euros. Speaking at a presentation regarding the World Championship, hosted by the Belarusian Embassy to Moscow, he added that tickets are to cost 250 Euros for final matches.

He underlined, "These are preliminary figures but everyone should understand that, if we make tickets too expensive, we may see the same situation as was observed during the London Olympics: half-empty stands."

Mr. Mikhailov added that the sale of tickets should kick off around September, on sale from box offices and online. To avoid speculation, special agreements are being signed with foreign partners regarding sale of tickets abroad.

Successful trip to Tbilisi

Belarusian athletes claim six medals at European Wrestling Championships hosted by Georgia

By Dmitry Baranovsky

Belarus' best athlete, Elbek Tozhiyev, clinched men's Greco-Roman under 55kg gold, winning title of European champion.

On his road to the final, Elbek Tozhiyev confidently defeated Anar Zeinalov of Estonia, Aleksandar Stoyanov Kostadinov of Bulgaria and Russia's Bekkhan Mankiyev. In the men's Greco-Roman 55kg final, he faced Azerbaijan's Elchin Aliyev, who managed to defeat our sportsman within two rounds. The first time segment was won by Aliyev — 1:0; the second went to the Belarusian with the same score. In the final



Belarus' E. Tozhiyev (red) vs Azerbaijan's E. Aliyev during the Greco-Roman Wrestling 55kg gold medal match

round, Tozhiyev brought the final score to a victorious — 5:1.

Tozhiyev's gold wasn't

the only medal for Belarus, thanks to Anastasia Guchok's European championship gold in the under 59kg category.

Bronze went to Vasilisa Marzalyuk (under 72kg), who almost reached the final match. Belarusian wrestlers also

claimed silver — Vladislav Andreyev in the under 55kg — and bronze: Alexander Kontoev in the under 66kg.

Victoria Azarenko's degree of influence

Bloomberg rates Belarusian tennis player among top hundred athletes for influence in USA

The Sportfolio Power rating ranks Victoria (currently #3 world seed) in 32nd place for her influence — purely across the USA. The rankings

were compiled on the basis of achievements within the sporting arena and beyond, including advertising potential, advertising revenue and athletes' social networking activity.

Victoria Azarenko has won 16 tournaments under the aegis of the World Tennis

Association. This year, she won the Grand Slam's Australian Open, as well as a large tournament in Qatar's capital of Doha.

The first three places are occupied by James LeBron (basketball), Tiger Woods (golf) and Peyton Manning (American football).

Tsmoki to continue in VTB United League

By Vladimir Dmitriev

Belarus' basketball champion — Minsk club Tsmoki — has played its last match in the regular championship of the VTB United League, at Minsk Arena. Andrey Krivonos' squad faced Czech Nymburk — a formidable rival to whom they had previously lost. Fortunately, the team celebrated victory, ensuring them a place in the League next year.

The team took advantage from the first minutes of the match, preventing Nymburk from taking the initiative. The 71:63 win guarantees Tsmoki's further participation in the prestigious tournament. Lithuania's Neptunas, from Klaipeda, must continue through the qualification round, despite beating Yenisei in Krasnoyarsk, as they are in last place in their group.



Vidas Ginevicius during the match



Goalkeeper L. Haugen is backbone of Dinamo's defence

Dinamo Minsk stays in KHL

By Igor Grishin

Dinamo Minsk to continue playing in KHL 2013/2014 season

Reports were presented at a recent session of the Supervisory Board, detailing sports results and club development over the 2012/2013 season. Dinamo Minsk's continued performance in the coming KHL season was discussed, with the Board noting its desire to keep the core of the team stocked by local players and legionaries. In the season the number of legionaries should meet the 6+1 formulae (6 field players and 1 goalkeeper). Incidentally, its affiliated squad — Dinamo-Shinnik

— is playing in the Junior Hockey League. The management is to continue focusing on raising revenue via commercial activity.

Jointly with the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation, the club is developing proposals to improve the regulation of the Belarus Open Championship, including the status of players and transfer terms between teams.

While Dinamo Minsk's Supervisory Board was summing up the results of the previous KHL season, the squad played perhaps its most important match so far this season. Despite letting in nine goals, they were victorious, with a result of 12:9.