

Entering top three

By Yegor Glebov

Belarusian women's national team wins bronze at European U21 Snooker Championships, hosted by Serbian Bor

The Belarusian women's squad comprised Anastasia Tumilovich and Yana Shut, who beat Romanian and Serbian pairs at the preliminary stage. However, in their next two meetings, they lost to Germany and to Russia's foremost team. They defeated Russia's number-2 squad in the ¼ finals (4:3) but again lost to Russia's number-1 team (4:0) which dashed any hope of gold.

The men's national squad of Belarus (Sergey Vasiliev, Maxim Shkundalev and Sergey Melnichenok) finished 17th in the European Championship team tournament, losing to Israel, Belgium and Ireland's second team in the first round, before drawing with Croatia. Sadly, they failed to reach the play-offs.



A. Tumilovich and Y. Shut

In the individual competitions for U21 athletes, Sergey Melnichenok came 17th, being knocked out in the 1/16 finals. Yana Shut and Vladislav Kalinovsky both finished 49th.



At end of season, Darya Domracheva hopes to perform confidently and successfully

Moscow brings together champions

Belarusian biathlete Darya Domracheva to perform in Champions Race, hosted by Moscow on April 6th

By Igor Leshin

The races will bring together the world's top biathletes, including the holders of this season's Big Crystal Globes: French Martin Fourcade and Norwegian Tora Berger. The men's events will also feature

Emil Hegle Svendsen (Norway), Yevgeny Ustyugov (Russia), Jakov Fak (Slovenia), Björn Ferry (Sweden) and Simon Furkad (France). The women's race includes Marie Dorin Aber (France), Kaisa Mäkäräinen (Finland), Gabriela Soukalova (the Czech

Republic), Olga Vilukhina (Russia), Anastasiya Kuzmina (Slovakia), Miriam Gössner (Germany) and Vita and Valya Semerenko (Ukraine), alongside Ms. Domracheva.

Moscow is hosting the Champions Race for the third time, with athletes starting

and finishing from inside the Olimpiyskiy Sports Complex, which seats 20,000 fans. The shooting range will also be located inside but a considerable part of the track is being laid outside the arena, created by the organisers on adjacent grounds.

Honoured for good play

By Igor Grishin

39th Annual General Meeting of European Tennis Federation sees Max Mirny of Belarus awarded prestigious Tennis Europe Award

The European Tennis Federation bestows the award on outstanding athletes in recognition of their significant contribution to the development and promotion of tennis in their own countries, as well as throughout Europe.

The legendary Belarusian tennis player Max Mirny is the deserved winner of this prestigious award, having enjoyed a sparkling career to date, including victories in the Davis Cup. Since 1994, he has been a member of the country's national Davis Cup team, playing 85 matches across 46 meetings over the twenty-year history of the Belarusian men's squad. The Davis Cup is the unofficial world championship. Moreover, partnering Victoria Azarenko, he took gold in the mixed doubles at the 2012 Olympics in London. He holds 45 ATP doubles titles, including 6 Grand Slam doubles titles and 3 mixed Grand Slam victories.

The Belarusian player was also honoured at the AGM conference. Irina Shimanovich of Belarus has finished the 2012 season as the European number one seed for girls aged under 16, earning her a gold medal and special diploma.

Like flying saucer with snakeskin

By late 2013, a unique European level football stadium will have launched in Belarus

By Dmitry Baranovsky

BATE club's new football stadium is expected to become a centre of Borisov's sporting life, attracting keen football fans with its comfortable conditions.

Sports sites

The new BATE stadium is situated outside Borisov but access won't be a problem for fans, since a railway passes nearby, in addition to the Borisov-Minsk highway. The location aims to stop residents being bothered by noise.

Despite cold weather, construction works are in full swing and the framework is almost ready. Builders admit that, when warm days arrive, they'll be able to work twice as fast. "We'll soon finish assembly of the reinforced concrete structures; just one

span of bleachers is yet to be completed," explains Vitaly Losevich, from Construction Department #123. "As regards industrial assembly of metal constructions, we've done half of the job and plan to complete the work by late March. Afterwards, the roof will be ready and we'll start decoration works — including the instalment of a glass window."

Seven parking lots are ready and approach roads will soon be finished, once the asphalt is laid. Already, seats for fans are installed in the stadium. Walls, stairs and cross-walls are to be made from high quality concrete, without plaster, to ensure durability and long term attractiveness.

Unique idea

It's a unique site for Belarus: the 13,000-seater stadium

being designed by a Slovenian firm. It made a similar construction previously, which it has adapted to suit Belarusian norms and rules.

Oval-shaped, with a natural grass pitch, and heating and watering systems to allow play in cold weather, as well as light aluminium roofing over seating, the design will bring comfort, safety and perfect acoustics.

The stadium's roof and facade are to resemble snakeskin. Mr. Losevich explains, "Special German technology is being used, with our specialists going to Germany to study facade and roof elements and their strapping."

The aluminium face is to be painted black (covering facade holes), while roof 'scales' will be 'etched' to create the snake effect.

"The Borisov stadium is not just a commercial project.



Model of future FC BATE stadium in Borisov

It'll be a centre for the region's social-cultural life and a football capital of Belarus," notes BATE's Deputy General Director for Technical Issues, Nikolay Vorobiev.

Complicated 'filling'

"Over my sporting career — especially the past three years, when I've acted as a UEFA delegate — I've seen many stadiums, including those of less outstanding clubs and sporting nations. I kindly praised them all," notes Mr. Vorobiev. "I think our country — which has glorious football traditions and pays much atten-

tion to sports — is worthy of enjoying well developed infrastructure; this functional and unique stadium is a bright example. It will soon act as an example for other construction projects, inspiring fans and co-operation with national and local authorities and football businesses."

The construction has four levels, with two upper 'floors' of VIP lounges and halls, offices for stadium heads and infrastructure for media representatives.

Security has been well thought out, offering e-access (to calculate fans in real

time). A control room will be equipped with displays, for security service officers, policemen, rescuers and doctors.

"This will be the best Belarusian stadium," confirms a BATE representative. "As it will lack a running track, just 15-20 metres will separate fans in the first rows from the pitch; they'll 'face' the game. We've done our best to ensure comfort for players as well as fans, with separate rooms for players, coaches and referees, as well as special entry for photographers, seats for express interviews and free Wi-Fi."