

Olympic gift for museum

By Yegor Glebov

Olympiad-2012 torch petal to join Museum of National Olympic Committee of Belarus

A petal from the huge torch used at the last Olympic and Paralympic Games in London, in 2012, is to find a place at the Museum of Olympic Glory: soon to open at the new headquarters of the National Olympic Committee of Belarus.

The giant torch was designed by famous British architect Thomas Heatherwick, comprising many smaller torches: each represented a participating country. The petals entered the stadium during the opening ceremony parade of the Olympiad, with each country inserting their small torch into the grand design. The huge fire brought 'warmth, hope and confidence' reads a letter written on behalf of the Chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Sebastian Coe.

Good warm-up before the World Cup

Belarusian national hockey team defeats Norwegian team in after-match penalty shootout in the second match of Slovakia Cup in Bratislava, thus winning the trophy in advance



The Belarusian squad boasts six victories in eight matches! The current team of Belarus proves its opulence regardless of some giving up on it because of some staff problems. Even during the meetings, in which the rivals led, there was always confidence that our team would be able to win. Moreover, our hockey players constantly faced opponents who were higher in the world rankings: Latvians (11), Germans (10), Norwegians (8) and Slovaks (6).

The last test for the Belarusian team before the World Cup took place in Slovakia. Beating (in the penalty shootout) Slovakia (3:2) and Norwegians (4:3), the national team returned home with triumph.

Bright Melitina Stanyuta perfectly performs at the World Cup stage in Pesaro

Belarusian gymnast has entered the medals podium of FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup in Italy five times



Leader of the Belarusian rhythmic gymnastics team, Melitina Stanyuta

By Igor Grishin

At first, Melitina Stanyuta won the all-round event earning 70.516 points after four types of exercises. Two other places at the medals podium were occupied by Russian athletes — Maria Tirova (70.450) and Darya Svatkovskaya (70.050). Another representative of Belarus Yekaterina Galkina came fifth among 56 entrants earning 69.567 points.

The leader of the Belarusian national team has also won three more gold medals in the finals of separate exercises. Melitina was best in the exercises with the ball (17.783), with the clubs (17.967) and the ribbon (17.850).

Meanwhile, Stanyuta finished second in the exercise with the hoop (18.017), being

outstripped by Russian Darya Svatkovskaya (18.033) who has also earned silver in the exercise with the clubs (17.933).

The Belarusian national team performed in group exercises at the World Cup in Pesaro in renewed line-up. Jointly with silver medalists of London Olympiad-2012 Alexandra Narkevich and Marina Goncharova, the tournament also featured four debutants — Anna Dudenkova, Valeria Pishchelina, Kristina Kostevich and Maria Kotyak. Therefore, it's no surprise that the Belarusian squad came only ninth in the double-event (3 balls and 2 ribbons; 10 clubs) among 13 squads earning 30.884 points. However, in the finals of the exercises with 3 balls and 2 ribbons the Belarusian girls have managed to claim bronze with 17.200 points.

SKA handball club in finals of the European Tournament

By Dmitry Baranovsky

There was time when Minsk's SKA handball club was one of the strongest in Europe

Victories in largest cups and in meetings with the giants of European sport, as well as lots of titles of the USSR champion, enabled the team to create such an image that now, when Belarus is represented by Dinamo in the Champions League and SKA's star times are already a thing of the past, people say about Startak Mironovich's team as a business card of Belarusian handball.

Recently, Minsk team has won the main trophy of the Baltic League without serious problems. Before this, it entered the finals of the Europe's third largest Cup — the Challenge Cup.

In the semi-finals, the Belarusians faced the strongest possible opponent — Norwegian Runar. It's quite a strong Scandinavian club, performing in the European cups not for the first year. Speaking about the prospects of this battle, SKA's head coach Startak Mironovich noted that the fulfilment of the task



SKA's Sergey Shilovich scores 8 balls in the home match against Runar

to win the Challenge Cup by his team would largely depend on the confrontation with the Norwegians. The team of the master of Belarusian handball started to fulfil this task already in the guest match. Thanks to the brilliant play of Boris Pukhovskiy, Minsk's have gained a major victory — 32:29.

However, three points couldn't be considered a real advantage that would allow our team to wait calmly the home meeting. Understanding the crucial moment,

the Norwegians started attack from the first minutes, making nervous the fans at Minsk's Sports Palace. Nevertheless, the squads went to the break with an equal score — 16:16.

17 minutes after the beginning of the second half of match, Runar took the lead. Moreover, after Nielsen's shot, the advantage of the Norwegian team exceeded 3 points that separated the Scandinavians from the entering the finals.

Pukhovskiy improved the situation. Together with

Sergey Shilovich and young Maxim Gaisa, SKA forward managed to equalise the score and then return the lead to his team. Mironovich's team led to the very final whistle, gaining the right to play for the major prize of the tournament. In the finals, Minsk's will face Luxembourg Handball Esch players, who in the return match managed to retrieve their defeat from Suceava in Romania and got a ticket to the decisive stage of the tournament with a winning edge.

Victory in Bucharest

Belarusian tennis player Max Mirny, partnered by Romanian Horia Tecau, has won the tournament in Bucharest with a prize fund of 410,000 Euros

In the finals, the top-seeded Belarusian-Romanian duo defeated the Austrian-Czech duo of Oliver Marach and Lukas Dlouhy — 4:6, 6:4, 10:6. The meeting lasted 1.5 hours.

Previously, Mirny and Tecau have beaten Italian duo of Daniele Bracciali / Potito Starace — 6:4, 6:4 — and defeated in the quarter-finals the international tandem of Victor Hanesu (Romania) and Gilles Muller (Luxembourg) — 7:6 (7:1), 6:2. Moreover, they've also won in the semi-final meeting over Italian Andreas Seppi and Serbian tennis player Viktor Troicki — 3:6, 10:8

This is the first victory since the time when Max Mirny and Horia Tecau have teamed up for the doubles since the beginning of the current season. Since then, they've already made it to the finals of two doubles tournaments — in Australian Sydney and American Delray Beach. This win has brought for Mirny his 46 title under the aegis of the Association of Tennis Professionals. Mirny and Tecau are currently ranked 13th in the world rating, topped by American brothers Bob and Mike Bryans.