

Dmitry Dashchinsky aims to claim the cup

Belarusian ski jumper wins second stage of World Cup Freestyle Aerial event, hosted by Canadian Val Saint-Côme

By Igor Grishin

Among the four super-finalists, Dmitry Dashchinsky received 120.24 points, outstripping Canadian Travis Gerrits (114.61), China's Hang Zhou (100.45) and Australian David Morris (81.00).

The earlier qualification round, which determined the 12 finalists, saw Dmitry Dashchinsky finish eighth, although he was fourth among the four super-finalists, with 117.70 points. In the ultimate round, the twice Olympic medallist (silver in Tourin-2006 and bronze in Nagano-1998) and twice world vice champion (2001 and 2007) proved unrivalled, ahead of his Canadian, Chinese and Australian rivals.

Three other Belarusian freestyle ski-jumpers took part. Denis Osipov was 11th in the qualification round

(96.02) and came seventh in the final (107.08) while Vancouver-2010 Olympic champion Alexey Grishin, returning from a long-term spinal injury, failed to reach the final, having to be content with 16th place in the qualification round. Maxim Gustik took 27th place (65.54 points) — among 29 entrants.

Dmitry Dashchinsky is now ranked third in the World Cup overall standings after two stages (earning 100 points), behind Chinese Jia Zongyang (140) and Canadian Travis Gerrits (109). Belarusian Denis Osipov is ninth (68 points) while Alexey Grishin is 23rd (15 points) and Dmitry Glushakov occupies 24th place (14). He is followed by Stanislav Gladchenko (26th place, with 13 points) and Maxim Gustik (33rd place, with 4 points) — among 35 athletes.



Dmitry Dashchinsky's jump brings him victory at World Cup Freestyle Aerials

Dinamo Minsk — in KHL play-offs

By Igor Leshin

Defeating Nizhny Novgorod's Torpedo in final match of away series, Dinamo Minsk hockey players enter top eight teams in KHL Championship Western Conference, reaching play-off zone

The net was defended by Lars Haugen (replacing Kevin Lalande, who took goal in the previous away match, in which the squad lost to Lokomotiv Yaroslavl). Coach Alexander Andrievsky also replaced the three pairs of defenders, with Andrey Mikhalev taking the place of Alexander Pavlovich in the fourth segment.

Over their three away matches, Dinamo Minsk has beaten Atlant in Mytishchi (1:0 in overtime), has lost to Lokomotiv Yaroslavl (1:4) and has defeated Torpedo in Nizhny Novgorod (2:1). In total, the Minskers have five out of nine possible points.

The Minsk club now faces Novosibirsk's Sibir, Khabarovsk's Amur and Novokuznetsk's Metallurg — all in home matches.

Ice hockey stars shine brightly

By Dmitry Komashko

Fifth Kontinental Hockey League All-Stars Game hosted by Urals, after being organised in Moscow, Minsk, St. Petersburg and Riga

Sergey Makarov captained the Chelyabinsk veterans, including local stars such as Karpov, Gusmanov and Gomylyako. Meanwhile, Vyacheslav Fetisov's Moscow team boasted coaches from Spartak and SKA, Fiodor Kanareikin and Alexey Gusarov, alongside the leader of the KHL trade union, Andrey Kovalenko, and the manager of the women's team, Alexey Yashin. Chelyabinsk Governor Mikhail Yurevich also took part, in addition to KHL President Alexander Medvedev.

The squads also featured

Belarusians, including the Director of Minsk Dinamo, outstanding Igor Matushkin, who scored during the game. Sadly, during the third period, Vyacheslav Fetisov and Sergey Fiodorov tied the score to 4:4.

The skills round was won by Zapad, which included Minsk Dinamo player Tim Stapleton. The latter also helped Zapad in the final match of the weekend. The squad's eighth goal came early in the third period, claimed by Varnakov, which reduced the 11 point lead by Vostok. Then, Zapad scored three more times, with Ilya Kovalchuk's puck hitting the net just 35 seconds before the end of the match. However, the final score of 11:18 left Vostok with a clear victory and a near record score, only matched by Jagr in the 2011 All-Star Game.



Tim Stapleton — star from Dinamo Minsk

Formula for silver

Darya Domracheva earns two silver medals at IBU World Cup fifth stage in German Ruhpolding

By Yegor Glebov

The 7.5km sprint saw the Belarusian break her chain of unsuccessful performances, earning her first medals of the year. Of course, as long as Darya's marksmanship is on form, all else usually falls into place. The good weather helped her on the shooting ranges and with her speed, allowing her to cover ground at a fantastic pace.

Over the last 2.5km, German Miriam Gössner slightly lost her lead, inspiring fans to hope for Domracheva closing her nine second gap before the second shooting range. Sadly, Darya only brought the gap to seven seconds, allow-



Darya Domracheva best on the track

ing Ms. Gössner to take sprint gold, despite a penalty lap.

Darya also did well in the mass start, covering the 12.5km distance just 26.7

seconds behind the winner, Norway's Tora Berger. The latter had just one miss on the shooting range, compared to Darya's two (1+0+1+0), and

finished in 37 minutes 14.4 seconds. Third place went to Russian Olga Zaitseva (1 miss: +37.8 seconds). After the last shooting range, Ms. Domracheva was in third position, 17 seconds behind Ms. Zaitseva, but closed the gap on the last lap, outstripping her rival by 11 seconds.

After five stages of the IBU World Cup, Darya Domracheva is ranked third overall, with 443 points, behind Norway's Tora Berger (574 points) and Miriam Gössner from Germany (471). Darya's return to form on the shooting ranges places her back in the running for the Big Crystal Globe.

Trophy almost in our hands

By Dmitry Komarov

The champion of Belarus, Zhlobin Metallurg, reached the super finals of the Hockey Continental Cup but failed to repeat the success of Minsk Yunost, which won in 2007 and 2011. Of course, participation in such a prestigious tournament is a great achievement in itself and Metallurg can feel proud of its performance.

The first match saw Metallurg facing its main rival: Ukrainian Donbass. The

game was fuelled by scandal, as Donetsk's 1:0 victory was disputed by the Belarusian team. Ukrainian striker Randy Robitaille had failed to qualify for the final, having played fewer than the required matches for Donbass after moving from Novokuznetsk Metallurg. All objections by Zhlobin were declined however.

Metallurg next played Italian Bolzano, needing not only to win but for French Rouen to beat Donbass. Sadly, the Italians conceded only during the penalty shootouts, and last year's Conti-

ental Cup winner, Rouen, lost to Donbass (1:7). Belarus has had to be content with second place, behind the Ukrainian team. Saying this, the result is actually outstanding, since the squad is debuting within the European arena.

In fact, Donbass' reserve goalkeeper is Minsker Stepan Goryachevskikh. Although he has not played in any of the tournament games (being in reserve), it's the second time in his career he owns the Continental Cup, having done so first in 2007 with Minsk.