

## Worthy result for girls with paddles

By Yury Poleshuk

### Belarusians placed third at European Rowing Championship

The Belarusian double scull of Yekaterina Karsten and Yulia Bichik has taken bronze in Spanish Seville, finishing with a time of 7:31.94. The girls were third in the 500m, 1,000m and 1,500m, while Lithuania's Donata Vistartaite and Milda Valsiukaite came first (7:21.87) and silver went to Poland's Magdalena Fularczyk and Natalia Madaj (7:28.34).

The finals brought fourth place to our women's eight, with Romania taking gold. The Belarusian men's eight came fifth, with Germany winning the gold.

## Run to 'silver' in four minutes

### Natalia Koreyvo comes second in international competition in Slovenia

The Slovenian city of Velenje hosted the International Athletics Competition on June 4th, with Belarusian Natalia Koreyvo coming second in the 1,500m — with a result of 4.13.09.

Serbian Amela Terzić took first place, with a time of 4.12.52; German Diana Sujew received bronze, being a few seconds ahead of her sister Elina, who finished fourth.

Sadly, there were no more medals for Belarusians; gold medals went to Canadian shot-putter Dylon Armstrong, with a throw of 20.74m, to Americans Mookie Salaam in the 100m and Tiffany Townsend in the 200m and to Russian Yury Borzakovskiy in the 800m.

## Hard-fought victory at home

### Belarusian basketballers outplay Serbians at Mogilev tournament

Mogilev's Sports Complex "Olimpiyets" recently hosted a tournament dedicated to the memory of USSR Honoured Coach Semen Khalipsky. In the first match, Belarusian girls met Serbian basketballers, winning 67:63 (12:22, 23:11, 14:12, 18:18). Yelena Levchenko demonstrated the best result — with 20 points; Yekaterina Snytnina earned 10 points. Rimantas Grigas' trainees are next to play Italy, after the latter's defeat by Ukraine: 60:69 (13:28, 15:16, 20:12, 12:13). On the final day of the competition, Belarus is to face Ukraine.

The Mogilev event is the last tournament for the Belarusian team before the 2013 European Championship — to be hosted by France from June 15th-30th. In the first round, our sportswomen play in Group D (in the city of Trelaze), pitted against the Czech Republic (June 15th), Croatia (June 16th) and Lithuania (June 17th).

# Undoubted success of boxing ring masters

Belarusian athletes claim four European Championship medals

By Dmitry Britikov

Belarus has won four awards at the European Boxing Championship, thanks to Victor Zuev, Vazgen Safaryants, Sergey Novikov and Pavel Kostromin. Three representatives of Belarus claimed bronze medals, and Vazgen Safaryants who had reached the final of the 40th European Boxing Championship took silver of the tournament. This absolute and unquestionable success for Belarusian boxing trumps any other to date. The first major success was in 1998, when the European Championship in Minsk saw three Belarusian boxers take medals. Meanwhile, the last time four medals were claimed was in 2010, at the European Championship in Moscow.

In fact, seven Belarusian boxers reached the quarter-finals of the European Championship but three failed to reach the semi-finals: Vitaly Bondarenko lost to Romanian Bogdan Yuraton, Sergey Korneev was defeated by Russian Alexey Yegorov and Sergey Loban lost to Irishman Mike Conley. Let's hope that, at the next such championship, they'll be able to take revenge for their defeats.

The fact that seven Belarusians reached the quarter-finals shows that our boxers are among the best in Europe. After all, only the most decent can stand against the world's recognised masters. Beforehand, the Belarusian national team's coaches had predicted three medals from the European Championship (although



Victor Zuev (R) is first to capture a bronze at European Championship

coach Konstantin Makhankov hinted that more might be possible); the extra medal has been an unexpected bonus for fans and coaches alike.

Few expected medals from Pavel Kostromin or Sergey Novikov, just hoping that they'd show their fighting spirit with dignity against famous rivals. Both made their debut at the tournament so their placement on the team was risky for head coach Vladimir Shin and the Chairman of the Belarusian Boxing Federation, Dmitry Tikhomolov. One

can only guess at how they found and considered them, but their decision paid off well in Minsk.

Our Belarusian boxers have won 19 continental forums, with the team's current member Victor Zuev having claimed medals three times: silver in 2004 and 2010, and bronze in 2002. Meanwhile, Vazgen Safaryants earned silver in 2008 and bronze in 2010 while Sergey Korneev took silver in 2008.

Minsk Sports Palace gathered huge crowds for the European

Championship, with seats free until the semi-final stage. Semi-final and final tickets cost about Br55,000-85,000 (\$6-10) making them affordable to all true fans. Drama inside the ring (and beyond) made the fights quite unexpected and intriguing; without doubt, nobody left feeling they had wasted time in attending. Audiences were treated to real and colourful boxing, from recognised masters and eager novices. The fact that Belarusians stand among these professionals makes us proud.

## Disappointment at Roland Garros Tournament

Victoria Azarenko fails to reach final of French Open



Victoria Azarenko worthily performs at Roland Garros

By Yury Pinchuk

Victoria Azarenko's match against Maria Sharapova was one of the most dramatic of the women's tour, following their previous 12 meetings. Victoria had a slight advantage, having enjoyed sev-

en victories but, on clay courts, Sharapova tends to be more confident.

The 2 hour and 10 minute match saw Azarenko break her rival's serve early on but Sharapova began playing powerfully, making a reverse break. She won

another five games, taking the set 6:1. The second set began with Maria taking the lead until Victoria broke her serve again and won the set 6:2, making one set all.

Rain postponed play for half an hour, allowing Maria to refocus. The third set brought long rallies and many mistakes. With the score at 2:5 in Maria's favour, Victoria managed to play four match balls and break her rival's service until she was just one game behind in the set. However, Sharapova won out in the end.

It was the first time that Victoria, 23, had reached the semi-finals of the Paris tournament, after eight times playing; she reached the quarter finals in 2009 and 2011. Azarenko won the first event of this year's Grand Slam series — the Australian Open — and the competition in Doha. In total, she has 16 championship titles under the aegis of the BTA.

## Caravan of seventy cars

By Andrey Butrimovich

### Moscow — Monte Carlo 2013 rally to pass through Belarus

World class racing stars such as Mika Häkkinen (a Formula 1 world champion), Nico Rosberg (a driver for the Mercedes GP Formula One team) and Stasys Brundza (winner of the Acropolis Rally in 1974) will soon be appearing in Belarus for the international Moscow — Monte Carlo rally. Around 70 teams are taking part — representing Belarus, Russia, Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Latvia and Lithuania.

The historic rally was revived last year, to mark the 100th jubilee of Andrey Nagel and Vadim Mikhailov's victory in the 1912 Monte Carlo race. This year's event starts on June 27th, covering 3,257km (the same distance as that covered by the Nagel-Mikhailov crew).

The race is to begin from Moscow's Red Square, passing through Minsk, Warsaw, Berlin, Munich and Lugano, before finishing in Monaco on July 2nd. Organisers will meet the crews in each city, to ensure that everyone is comfortable, as will the judges.