

## Best among other athletes

By Sergey Skvortsov

### Andrey Kravchenko wins Decathlon IAAF Combined Events Challenge, in the Czech Republic

A Belarusian track-and-field all-round team leader — Andrey Kravchenko — has won the tournament in Czech Kladno, continuing his successful season after a serious injury and a surgical intervention. In Kladno, the Belarusian scored 8,380 — demonstrating his best achievements of the season; meanwhile, he set a personal record in shot-put. Kravchenko ran 100m in 11.23 seconds, finished 110m hurdles in 14.14, 400m in 49.17 and 1,500m in 4 minutes and 41.8 seconds. In the high jump, he cleared 2.09m, and 4.82m — in the pole vault. He recorded 7.64m in long jump. The sportsman also threw the discus 47.11m and hurled the javelin 62.52m. His personal record in shot-put is now 14.96m. In the men's decathlon world ranking, Kravchenko is second. He won a tournament in Italy's Florence this May, demonstrating the best global result of the season: 8,390 points. Another Belarusian, Yekaterina Netsvetayeva, was fourth in the heptathlon event — with 5,984 points.

## 'Golden' game falls to the strongest

### Volleyball players from Belarus reach finals of European Championship

Fans of the women's team will be delighted to see their team reaching the finals of the European Championship, thanks to victory in a 'golden' game. After a home victory over the Slovaks, 3:0, Victor Goncharov's players lost 1:3 to Poprad hosts (25:15, 19:25, 17:25, 20:25). Where teams draw, a 'golden' game is played, irrespective of score and, in this, Belarus proved stronger, winning 16:14 after a tough struggle lasting 2 hours 6 minutes.

The forthcoming continental forum is to take place in Germany and Switzerland, from 6 - 14th September, with the Belarusian team playing in German Dresden, first facing Russia on 6th September, Azerbaijan on the 7th and Croatia on the 8th.

Following the play-offs for the continental championship, the Belarusian women's team has qualified for the third round of the World Championship, which is being held from 3rd to 5th January 2014. The men's team has already reached the finals of the European Championship and will continue its struggle to reach the World Championship's second round.

# Good and spectacular play will take us to Denmark

Belarusian handballers reach European Championship finals after tough struggle

By Dmitry Baranovsky

Yuri Shevtsov's squad have beaten one of the leading teams — from Iceland, playing at Minsk's Sports Palace. Neither team had an ideal line-up, with the Icelandic squad missing several of its top players. The Belarusian team had also suffered 'losses' — including the world's highest-paid player, Spanish Barcelona's Sergey Rutenko. Belarus claimed victory nevertheless, with Boris Pukhovskiy stepping into Sergey's role, having done much to ensure the sensational rise of Minsk SKA this season. Scoring nine goals, he was supported by Dmitry Kamyshkin, who contributed another four. Vitaly Cherepenko in goal helped the squad take the lead by halftime, and the score stood at 29:23 by the final whistle. Certainly, the opposition put up a good fight, making it a tough match. Boris is to spend next season in the Hungarian Championship but is currently playing for the national team.

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Yuri Shevtsov's trainees confidently defeat Iceland — leader of 6th qualifying group — at Minsk's Sports Palace

draw and greatly preferable to playing Austria or Russia, in the parallel group. From the first minutes of the match in Ljubljana, Belarus took the lead, enjoying an easier victory.

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defeated Slovenians — 35:33 (18:17).

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## Football players must definitely believe in their cherished dreams

14th Danone Nations Cup ends with Grodno victory

By Yury Chernyakevich

The Danone Nations Cup is the world's largest football competition for 10-12 year olds, with this year's finals held in London, at Wembley Stadium, in September. The Republican qualifying round of the Cup was held in Belarus recently, gathering junior squads from across the nation. Youth teams from all over the country played for their chance to reach the final stage.

The Danone Corporation organised the event in Belarus, alongside the Football Federation. In fact, our youngsters only began participating two years ago, when the legendary Santiago Bernabéu Madrid Stadium hosted the final matches. The Belarusian team, Zvezda, came 19th overall, above 22 other teams. In the 2012 finals, held in Warsaw, the team then finished 28th.

This year, Belarus will be represented by a team from Grodno's high school #37. Their skills and determination led them to early victory, gaining nine points across three rounds of the group stage of the competition, giving them unconditional entry to the semi-finals, where they tied with



Boys strain every sinew in football matches

a Soligorsk squad. They scored the winning goal from the penalty area, sending them into the finals of the national championship, meeting a team from Ivanovo, in the Brest Region.

A tense game followed, with few mistakes and great concentration for such young players. However, the final whistle saw the Grodno team win 3:0! Their delight was clear while their opponents could not hide their tears. All the teams

received gifts from the sponsors of the tournament, and a photo shoot with famous Belarusian striker Alexander Hleb, who gave autographs tirelessly throughout the day.

Hleb likes to encourage youngsters into the sport, saying, "The main thing is to believe in yourself. Believe in your dream and make every effort to make it reality. The Danone Nations Cup gives you the opportunity to learn about team spirit at a young age."

## Three bronze awards

By Andrey Butrimovich

### Belarus' judo fighters claim three bronze medals from European Open in Estonia

The prestigious European event in Tallinn saw Belarus' Vae Tutkhalyan (under 60kg), Alexey Romanchik (73kg) and Alexander Vakhoviyak (over 100kg) claim their medals after some tough matches and a few defeats.

Other team members failed to climb the podium on this occasion: Arif Bagirov (60kg), Dmitry Dranevsky (66kg), Alexey Svirid, Valery Khudoeshko and Vadim Shoka (all 73kg), Sergey Tereshko (81kg), Igor Zhukov and Alexey Stepankov (both 90kg) and Ilya Asin (100kg).

On returning home, the Belarusian athletes took part in a symbolic tournament. In mid-June, a traditional international training camp (under the aegis of the European Judo Union) was organised at Staiki Sports Complex — gathering the strongest fighters and best coaches from over 20 countries. The training camp is a good opportunity for our Belarusian sportsmen to take part in 'friendly' matches with the best judo fighters worldwide.