

New football ratings

By Yegor Glebov

International Football Federation (FIFA) announces national team ratings, with Belarus in 78th place

The national team of Belarus occupies 78th place, having 482 points. In June, it was 67th. During recent months, Georgy Kondratiev's squad has played two qualifying matches for the 2014 World Championship, against Finland: 0:1 defeat and 1:1. In Group 1, Spain is ranked first (1532 points), while France is 23rd (838 points), Finland is 65th (537 points) and Georgia is 98th (369 points).

Belarus is next to play a friendly match against Montenegro (ranked 28th) on 14th August, in Zhodino. The Belarusian squad will play two more qualifying matches for the 2014 World Championship this year: on 10th September at home, against Finland, and on 11th October in Spain, against the current world and European champions. A friendly match is planned for 15th October against Japan (37th place), in Belarus.

The next rating-list will be released by FIFA on 8th August.

Difficult 'rise'

Belarusian Vasily Kiriyenko, cycling for British Sky team, finishes 100th jubilee cycling race of Tour de France Grand Tour after ninth stage

During the ninth stage of the most prestigious multi-day bicycle race, Vasily Kiriyenko failed to meet the set time limit, probably due to physical exhaustion after his efforts in the peloton for the leader of the team, Christopher Frum. They 'attacked' a highest category hill during one of the stages last weekend. Frum leads in the overall standings.

Another Belarusian on the Sky team, Konstantin Sivtsov, continues his performance in the Tour de France. Belarusian Alexander Kuchinsky is a member of the Russian Katyusha team but neither occupies a high place in the current Tour de France. Sivtsov is ranked 109th while Alexander Kuchinsky is 157th.

The race is to finish on July 21st, on Paris' Champs-Élysées; by then, the athletes will have covered over 3,400km.

Students show their great sporting talents

Belarusian athletes claim a huge number of awards at Universiade, hosted by Kazan

By Dmitry Baranovsky

than once.

Belarusian rowers also did well. On the first day of the tournament, the women's double sculls Iriana Leparskaya and Yelena Krivosheenko claimed gold in the 2,000m (classical academic style). Later, rowers Tatiana Kukhta and Yekaterina Shlyupskaya took silver.

Track-and-field saw Alina Talay finish second in the 100m hurdles, making a weighty contribution on the eve of the World Championship in Moscow.

Belarusian wrestlers Marina Slutskaya (over 78kg) won bronze while Pavel Produkho (90kg classical) claimed silver and Alexey Sobol (over 100kg classical) bronze.

The performance of Belarus' national volleyball team should be especially mentioned. The young Belarusian national squad managed to reach the quarter-finals of the tough tournament, where the players fought hard but were defeated by Koreans and Russians. In September, many of these athletes will debut in the European Volleyball Championship — first in the history of Belarusian volleyball.



Belarusian athletes certainly claimed awards. From above, the rowing team which took first place; the champion of the Universiade, Alexandra Gerasimena; Alina Talay, who won a silver medal

Dinamo ploughs ahead



Dinamo Minsk footballers beat Lithuanian Kruoja

By Yegor Glebov

Dinamo Minsk footballers confidently overcome first round of Europa League, beating Lithuania Kruoja with total score of 8:0 across two matches

In the return match of the first qualifying round, hosted by Minsk's Trak-

tor Stadium, the Minsk squad defeated their guests 5:0 (4:0). The fate of the match was decided early in the first half; by the 17th minute, Kruoja goalkeeper Mindaugas Malinauskas' net had been assaulted four times.

Artem Bykov claimed the first goal in the 5th minute, following a great

pass from Dmitry Sychev. In the 15th minute, Hernán Figueredo scored, followed by Dmitry Sychev's two goals in the 16th and 17th minutes. Several more wonderful opportunities arose but shots at goal proved imprecise.

During the second half, Minsk relaxed a little. In the 54th minute, Dinamo received a penalty kick, taken ineffectively by Sychev, being saved by Malinauskas. His hat trick was foiled. Nevertheless, fans were delighted to see Vladimir Khvashchinsky claim the final goal, leaving the score at 5:0. In the first match, held the previous week in Šiaulė, Dinamo won 3:0.

In the second round of the Europa League qualification round, Robert Maaskant's trainees will face a far more severe rival: the vice champion of Croatia, NK Lokomotiva Zagreb. Their first match is to be hosted by Minsk on July 18th, with return play in Zagreb on July 25th.

Mascots on ice

Yevgeniy Vorsin, Head of Ice Hockey Federation, notes at press-conference in Minsk that life-size figures of Volat World Hockey Championship mascot for 2014 are to be made in Canada, with Canadians manning inside

Mr. Vorsin has said.

Production is difficult but sketches have been co-ordinated, allowing the Canadian company to produce a prototype. "We hope to receive the model this autumn. The observance of colour is the most important factor," notes the Head of the Federation.

During the World Championship, Canadian artistes will perform inside the costumes. "It's a real art that needs a certain expression. We suggested that the Canadian specialists train our artistes but they asserted that this wouldn't produce the desired result," Mr. Vorsin notes.

Keeping elite position among the top three

Belarusian tennis player Victoria Azarenko ranked third in WTA ratings

Victoria has lost her second seed position to Russia's Maria Sharapova, while top place is still occupied by American Serena Williams. On July 7th, the Wimbledon

tournament finished, with all three being knocked out early. France's Marion Bartoli took ultimate victory, bringing her from 15th to 7th seed. The WTA top 100 also features Belarusian Olga Govortsova — in 85th place, with 785 points.