

## Max Mirnyi helps young tennis players

By Yegor Glebov

### Famous tennis player opens Nike Junior Tour (NJT) qualifying round in Minsk

NJT regional tournaments have already begun in Vitebsk, Grodno and Pinsk, with Max Mirnyi urging young players to never give up on their dreams. In his speech in Minsk, he noted that his own career has been peppered with disappointments. "You have to learn to lose. On the tennis court, you need two components: a smile and patience. If you have neither, you'll find it difficult to win even one match," he asserted.

The famous tennis player is promoting the NJT international tournament in Belarus, with qualifying rounds organised regionally over the whole summer. Max will be attending matches to attract attention to the project and popularise tennis. "It's one of my main areas for support and promotion," he has told the media.

The NJT tournament has two stages in Belarus: the first is for U12 and U14 age categories; the second will be held in Minsk from September 17th-21st, with the winners qualifying for the international final, hosted by Florida (USA).

# Successfully passing test on strength and determination

Almost 12,000 athletes from 160 countries recently took part in 27 sports, setting 67 records, at the Universiade in Kazan. The student event has become the most grandiose and most significant, with our Belarusian athletes standing out among the rest.

By Dmitry Baranovsky

The Russian team led, with 285 awards, including 151 gold, but our Belarusians can be proud of their 40 medals, including 23 gold. The Universiade aims to test young athletes, whose future will take them towards World Championships and Olympic Games.

The tournament in Kazan brought many new names to light. Our Belarusian kayakers and canoeists did well, claiming 12 medals within a single day. Meanwhile, Maria Litvinchuk (previously



Winners of 27th Universiade honoured in Minsk

Poltoran) took four medals within six hours. Belarusian rower Olga Khudenko claimed three gold awards. Undoubtedly, they'll become fixtures at future world tournaments.

Of course, Alexandra

Gerasimenya was expected to do extremely well, even without focused training, having won medals at the World Championship and Olympics previously. Our 'golden fish' is already a world-class record breaker.

Yevgeny Tsurkin broke two national records in Kazan, showing that he is progressing and may be ready to make a name for himself at the FINA World Championships in Barcelona.

Commenting on the Be-

larusian squad's performance in Kazan, Belarus' Sports and Tourism Minister, Alexander Shamko, emphasises that each medal is a ticket to the future. Our athletes deserve praise and to have their names remembered.

## New place in football ratings

### 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.

## Two victorious fightings

By Igor Grishin

### Belarusian professional boxers Sergey Rabchenko and Kirill Relikh win matches in Minsk

Kirill Relikh (under 63.5kg) has defeated Georgian Mikhail Avakyan in the fight for the CIS championship title. It took time for the Belarusian boxer to break his rival's defence and attack efficiently but, in the fourth round, the Georgian took a powerful side blow to the head. He managed to stay upright until the end of the round but eventually succumbed to a series of painful strokes and a decisive knock-out. The title of CIS champion is the first in Relikh's career.

Current ENU European Champion Sergey Rabchenko (under 69.9kg) endured an eight round bat-



Sergey Rabchenko

tle against Georgian Gari Abadzhan. Rabchenko immediately seized the initiative, preventing the experienced Georgian from being able to

attack. Sergey's precise blows finally resulted in a technical knock-out, despite Abadzhan trying hard to fight back in the third round.

Rabchenko has enjoyed 24 professional victories (18 by knock-out), 0 draws and 0 losses. In May, he topped the light middle-weight boxing ratings (under 69.9kg) according to the famous World Boxing Council. On March 30th, he defended his title of European champion and his WBC Silver belt (EBU) in his weight category. He is now preparing to meet a new contender for the title — perhaps in October.

The international professional boxing tournament in Minsk featured boxers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Ukraine.

## More difficult than Dakar



MAZ-SPORTauto team vehicles

By Igor Leshin

### MAZ-SPORTauto team's new tactics successful at Silk Way-2013 rally

Sergey Vyazovich's crew (navigator Dmitry Vikhrenko and mechanic Alexander Polishchuk) have come third in the international Silk Way-2013 rally. Meanwhile, the other crew (driver Alexander Vasilevsky, navigator Valery Kozlovsky and mechanic Anton Zaporoshchenko) finished sixth in the truck class.

"Our high result was possible thanks to our change in strategy and tactics. In previous races, we've tried to set off at a rapid pace, keeping up with the leaders. However, this led to emergencies and breakdowns," explains Sergey Vyazovich. "Our new

tactics have helped us minimise time spent on repairs while racing. We've avoided breakdown and technical problems, which have led to a higher placing."

This year's Silk Way rally was even more difficult than the famous Dakar. "Weather conditions were much harsher than at the recent Dakar, because of high temperatures and humidity. The organisers were afraid that drivers might suffer from heatstroke, stressing that they'd disqualify crews not carrying enough water," notes Dmitry Korotkevich.

The MAZ-SPORTauto team made its debut at the Silk Way rally in 2009 and, in 2012, Alexander Vasilevsky's crew came 11th in the truck classification; Sergey Vyazovich's crew was 14th out of 24.