

Game holds together team

By Igor Leshin

Head coach of Belarus' national football team, Georgy Kondratiev, calls on 22 footballers for friendly match against Montenegrin, on August 14th, at Zhodino's Traktor Stadium

Montenegro is ranked 28th by FIFA, and leads its qualifying group for the 2014 World Championship, being ahead of the British, Ukrainians and Poles. The Belarusian national squad, which is placed 78th, occupies last place (of five teams) in its qualifying group.

The next qualifying match for the 2014 World Championship is to be held on September 10th, against France, hosted by Gomeľ's Tsentralny Stadium, which seats 14,300. In preparation, Georgy Kondratiev's trainees have a friendly match against Kyrgyzstan's national team, hosted by Zhodino on September 6th. In the final match of the selection round, our squad will play an away match against Spain: world and European champion, on October 11th. Belarus will then play at home against the Japanese squad, on October 15th, with the stadium yet to be decided. The Japanese have already ensured a ticket to the World Championship in 2014.

Result of the decade

By Igor Grishin

Belarus' national baseball team gives best performance of decade at European Baseball Championship round in Austria

The Belarusian national baseball team occupied third place at the recent European Baseball Championship round, having played well in Austria's Vienna. Five games were held to decide entrance into Group A, from July 22nd-27th, with Belarus winning four. Our team defeated that of Russia (7:6), Lithuania (6:5), Slovakia (10:2) and Ireland (7:3), being beaten only by the Austrian squad. According to Igor Lukashevich, Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Baseball Association, it's the first time that the Belarusian Baseball Association has been able to send its top players: eight from Brest, five from Minsk and four from Skidel. "I believe that the performance of our baseball players has been the best within the last decade," he stresses.

Russia's national team won the European Championship round, defeating Austria 3:2. Slovakia is ranked 4th, followed by Lithuania and Ireland.

Identical disillusionment delivered simultaneously

Minsk's Dinamo and FC Minsk both suffer sad defeat in the Europa League's third round — with same disappointing score of 0:1

By Yegor Glebov

Dinamo Minsk has lost to Turkey's Trabzonspor in Brest, despite the support of around 8,000 fans. In the first half, Dinamo went on the attack yet failed to score. Meanwhile, Trabzonspor played aggressively, with several fouls. Igor Stasevich's penalty kicks proved no threat to Turkish goalkeeper Onur Kivrak and, by the end of the first half, Trabzonspor's Paulo Henrique had outwitted Alexander Sulima in goal.

After halftime, both sides were eager to score and Dinamo's Lazar Veselinović had the best chance in the 57th minute. However, his angled shot hit the post. In the 74th minute, Dinamo's Sergey Politevich made another attempt: saved by Onur Kivrak. By the final whistle, the result was unchanged except for Veselinović being sent off following a scuffle.

The disappointment follows Dinamo's success in the previous round's away match.

Meanwhile, FC Minsk



Match against Scottish St. Johnstone makes FC Minsk feel outnumbered

played a home match against St. Johnstone: the bronze holder of the Scottish Championship. Sadly, they lost, letting through a single goal in the middle of the second half. Minsk's first defeat in the present Europa League's first round

followed an exciting match in which Vadim Skripchenko's trainees lost possession of the ball to the Scots early on. The 10th minute saw Minsk's Nikita Bukatkin manage a shot at the net, without success, and midfielder Roman Vas-

ilyuk proved himself the most active player on the Belarusian team, setting up numerous passes. Sadly, no goals were forthcoming and the Scots counterattacked, threatening goalie Vladimir Bushma. Eventually, in the 69th minute,

St. Johnstone's Steven McLean's low shot into the corner of the net brought them the winning goal.

Minsk FC's third round in the Europa League has also seen an away draw and a home win (over Maltese Valletta).

Major start of season for Belarusian team



Belarusian sprinters ready for victory

By Kirill Karin

Belarusian national team sets sights on IAAF World Championship in Moscow

Following the Belarusian Open Championship in Grodno, the coaching staff of the Belarusian national track-and-field team, headed by Alexander Troshchilo, has picked 27 sportsmen to represent Belarus at the 2013 IAAF World Championships, host-

ed by Moscow in late August.

Pavel Krivitsky, Valery Svyatokho and Yuri Shayunov will represent Belarus in the hammer-throwing event — a traditionally strong discipline for Belarus. Among the female hammer-throwers will be 2008 Olympic champion Oksana Menkova. Pavel Lyzhin will be competing in the shot-put event, as will Alena Dubitskaya, Yelena Kopets and Yulia Leontyuk. Four Belarusians be race

walking: Denis Simanovich (20km), Ivan Trotsky (50km), Anna Drabenya (20km) and Anastasia Yatskevich (20km).

Among the Belarusian team's runners will be Anis Ananenko (800m), Alina Talay (100m hurdles) and Marina Arzamasova (800m). Yulia Yurenya, Anna Reishel (Tashpulatova), Ilona Usovich and Irina Khlyustova will compete in the relay 4x400m.

In the all-round, Belarus will be represented by Andrey Kravchenko (decathlon), alongside Yana Maximova and Yekaterina Netsvetayeva (heptathlon).

Vladimir Kozlov will be competing in the javelin, Olga Sudareva in the women's long jump and Natalia Vyatkina in the women's triple jump.

One of Belarus' best sprinters, Alexander Linnik, failed to qualify for the 2013 IAAF World Championships, due to lack of speed. He won two gold medals at the recent Belarusian Open Championship: in the 110m hurdles and 200m sprint.

Continuing career in world's top clubs

Central player of Belarusian national basketball team, Yelena Levchenko, joins Slovakian Good Angels from Kosice, moving from China's Liaoning Hengye



With the ball, Y. Levchenko

The four-month contract may be extended with Good Angels, who play in the Slovakian national women's championship. Moreover, the club reached the semi-finals of the Euroleague in the 2012/2013 season.

Yelena Levchenko's major career achievement is her performance within the planet's strongest league, with Atlanta Dream: the Eastern

Conference of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). In 2010, she reached the final series of the playoff round with her club and, in 2007, played for the Belarusian national team at the European Championship in Italy, where the team clinched bronze.

Yelena played for the All-Tournament Team at the 2010 FIBA World Championship, and was named 'best centre of the tournament'. Moreover, she took part in the Euroleague-2011 All-Stars Game and played for the national team during Women's EuroBasket-2013.

Ms. Levchenko's Belarusian teammate is one of the most promising basketballers in the country: Maria Popova. The latter continues to play for Belgian Namur, having signed a one-year contract. Before her move to Belgium, she was contracted to Grodno's Olympia. Last year, Ms. Popova was named among the top ten young European players by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).