

# Handball home match triumph for Dinamo

Dinamo Minsk handball team win their first Group Stage home match of EHF Champions League against FYR Macedonia's Vardar

By Yegor Glebov

While Dinamo Minsk hockey club doesn't give us many reasons to write positively about its performance in the KHL Championship, Dinamo Minsk handball team have performed rather well in their two games in the current Champions League, making Boris Denič's players real contenders for entry to the play-offs out of Group C.

Dinamo Minsk head coach Boris Denič noted after the two matches, "It's always very difficult to start the tournament with a defeat. We played well in the first match, yet lost to PSG. However, we acted well in defence during both halves when playing against Vardar. The Macedonians were ready for our attacks but we played slightly better and achieved the victory." The Belarus' champions defeated their guests from Skopje 26:24.

At the beginning of the first half, the opponents could not break the deadlock for a long time, but then Dinamo managed to take an 8:4 lead. The guests, however, collected themselves and struck back with four unanswered goals in a row, restoring the balance, which was kept until the break. After the break, both clubs were unable to establish a lead of more than two goals, but in the last five minutes Dinamo were the stronger team.

This was their first victory in the



Minsk Dinamo's Sergey Shelmenko distinguishes himself in the game against Macedonia

new version of the EHF Champions League. Dinamo's Sergey Shelmenko led the way with six goals, with Denis Rutenko, Dean Bombac and Damir Dobarac scoring four times each. Meanwhile, Dinamo's Serbian

goalie, Dimitrije Pejanovic, put up a great performance, saving a goal from the guests' most dangerous attack just 1.5 minutes before the final whistle.

Dinamo Minsk is set to play its

next Group C game against Switzerland's 'Wacker Thun' at the Sports Palace on October 10th. The Swiss side lost at home to another FYR Macedonian club, HC Metalurg, 22:23 in the first round.

## Preparation in full swing

By Igor Grishin

**Teams and fans of the forthcoming 2014 World Ice Hockey Championship will enjoy the accommodation near to the arenas, the MAZ buses being used for transportation, Belarusian insurance and free medical aid — as the Chairman of the Belarusian Hockey Federation and Head of the Directorate for 2014 IIHF World Championship, Yevgeny Vorsin, told the press**

The hosting country is to use its comfortable, MAZ buses for the championship. By February 2014, twenty new vehicles will be produced for the participating teams. In addition, each squad shall be provided with passenger cars and mini-buses to transport hockey, and other equipment. Skoda will become the official car of the IIHF.

Both event arenas will offer comfortable and spacious changing rooms for the players and, in distinction from some states;

free medical aid will be available (during matches and at other times).

Official hockey delegations will be accommodated in hotels close to the Minsk and Chizhovka-Arenas — depending on their group. Teams, officials and journalists will be welcomed at the Renaissance, Victoria, Minsk, Svisloch and Belarus hotels; some are already functioning, and others are currently being built.

According to Mr. Vorsin, 300 places and 50 commentary positions will be offered to journalists at both arenas, and the championship will be insured by a Belarusian insurer. Insurance is common for the International Hockey Federation, and the forthcoming event is no exception. However, Minsk's championship will be insured by a national company as opposed to the usual practice of a European firm taking on this responsibility. The insurance sum will be around 60m Euros, covering losses incurred as a result of the championship's cancellation, time rescheduling, emergencies or other force-majeure events.

## Among the strongest fighters

By Igor Leshin

**Another tournament of the Judo Grand Prix in Almaty (Kazakhstan), brings success for the Belarus participants**

The highest weight category was won by Belarus' Alexander Vakhovyak, in the super heavyweight 100+. In order to be standing on the highest step of the podium he needed to win three bouts.



Alexander Vakhovyak

In the first fight, Vakhovyak was stronger than the Ukrainian, Stanislav Bondarenko and, in the semi-final, the Belarusian fought and defeated Brazil's David Moura. This lined him up for a final match against Kazakhstan's, Yerzhan Shinkoyev. The mighty Belarusian mas-

ter showed that here also, the best.

In the men's weight over 81 kg category, Alexander Steshenko reached the final, but lost to Russia's Khasan Khalmurzayev. In the women's competition, the Belarusian Marina Slutskaya (over 78 kg) also landed a place in the final, but could not cope with the more powerful Gulzhan Issanova, from Kazakhstan, and took the silver. Like Vakhovyak, both Slutskaya and Steshenko, had achieved two victories to win their places in the final.

Belarus' Alan Khugayev only managed to reach seventh place in the under 100kg category.

In the same tournament, Belarus' Dmitry Shershan, won the silver medal in the under 66kg category. This means that in just two days of competition, the Belarusian team won 1 gold and 3 silver medals. The success of the national judo team at this tournament comes a close second to the most successful performance of our athletes in 2013 — the European Cups held in German Sindelfingen in July 2013, where 2 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals were won.

## First ever meeting of rivals

**Belarusian national football team to face Japan in final match of the season**

The Belarusian national football team, currently ranked 80th in the FIFA World Rankings, will play their first ever friendly match against the Japanese side at Zhodino's Torpedo Stadium.

Earlier this year, Japan, who occupies 42nd in the FIFA rankings with 671 points, became one of the first teams in the world to secure a place in the finals of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Prior to this friendly game, Belarus will play their ultimate match of the 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign (in Group I), against world and European champions Spain, on October 11th. Spain currently top this qualifying group.

## Olympic applications approved

**The National Olympic Committee of Belarus has approved a long list of the Belarusian delegation for the 22nd Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014**

Between February 6th-23rd, Belarusian athletes will compete in seven sports at the Winter Olympic arenas in Sochi.

**Biathlon:**

Darya Domracheva, Anastasia Dubarezova, Nadezhda Skardino, Lyudmila Kalinichik, Nadezhda Pisareva, Sergey Novikov, Vladimir Alenishko, Yevgeny Abramenko, Vladimir Chepelin and Yuri Lyadov. Reserves: Irina Krivko and Alexander Dorozhko.

**Freestyle:**

Alla Tsuper, Maria Shcherbina, Anna Guskova, Alexey Grishin, Dmitry Dashchinsky and Anton Kushnir. Reserves: Alexandra Romanovskaya, Olga Kapustina, Maksim Gustik, Stanislav Gladchenko and Denis Osipov.

**Cross-country skiing:**

Valentina Kaminskaya, Yekaterina Rudakova, Yelena Sannikova, Sergey Dolidovich, Alexey Ivanov, Alexander Lazutkin and Mikhail Semenov. Reserves: Yuri Astapenko and Alexander Voronov.

**Mountain skiing:**

Maria Shkanova and Yuri Danilochkin; Vyacheslav Yudin will be a reserve.

**Speed skating:**

Yekaterina Morozova, Ksenia Sadovsikaya, Tatiana Mikhailova and Vitaly Mikhailov.

**Short track:**

Olga Talayeva, Vera Antonenko, Yevgeny Ryzhov, Maxim Sergeyev and Alexander Antonenko.

**Figure skating:**

Maria Polyakova, Pavel Ignatenko and Nikita Bochkov.

The Executive Committee of the National Olympic Committee also submitted a list of the Belarusian media who will cover the forthcoming events of the 2014, Sochi Winter Olympics.