

No extra points earned for Swiss Wacker Thun

Minsk Dinamo handball team recently played another Champions' League match against Switzerland's, Wacker Thun, at the capital's Palace of Sports. The Swiss were the only team in Group C who had failed to earn points after the first two rounds. Minsk's match was a failure for them as well as our Dinamo won!

By Yegor Glebov

Although the Swiss club demonstrated no success in its Champions' League performance, the Belarusians were careful not to underestimate them. Martin Rubin's team may have no handball stars but it is still persistent. In their first match, Wacker Thun was close to take away the points in their match against Metallurg.

Macedonians narrowly beat them: 23:22. However, the Swiss were smashed later, in the match against Barcelona, 26:45. Meantime, our Dinamo handball team was in high spirits, having no reasons to feel



Dinamo Minsk handball team achieve their second victory in Champions League

sad, having recently defeated their major national rival Meshkov BHC, (26:20). Moreover, their Champions' League progress was steady.

At the beginning of the match, Wacker Thun was Dinamo's equals. Both teams scored twice in the first seven minutes. Later, Damir Doborac scored twice, giving our team the advantage, although initially, Dinamo failed to attack strongly, with most attempts coming from Damir and the captain, Nikulenkov, who earned another point for the team in the 15th minute. Although our guys controlled the match, coach, Boris Denič decided to call a time out to instruct his trainees.

Afterwards, Rutenko scored, but when the score was 9:5, it was Martin Rubin's turn to instruct his players. Sadly, for them, this brought no positive result. Our Ninchevich later added another five points to the Dinamo total and, before the break, Bombac also contributed to the hosts' lead.

At the beginning of the second round, Doborac's penalty kick added another seven points to Dinamo's score and, several minutes later, the player scored again, giving our team a nine point lead. Doroshchuk then brought the score to 18:8. After the break, Wacker Thun failed to attack and there was an impression that

the result was academic. However, the home team then demonstrated several failures and, by the 49th minute, our advantage was not so impressive: 19:14. Fortunately, Ninchevich reacted perfectly, scoring twice (+7) in a short period of time. After this, the Dinamo team pulled together and Bombac, Shelmenko, Bundalo, and Stetsyura scored and the Swiss team's interest disappeared. In the last minute, Wacker did earn a penalty kick, but Markelov successfully defended the goal. This was the young goalkeeper's first match and he successfully beat off Franič's shot to preserve the final 27:20 score.

Merits weren't left unnoticed

Famous Belarusian chess player and international grandmaster, Victor Kupreichik, inducted into World Chess Hall of Fame, following a decision adopted at the 84th FIDE Congress, in Tallinn

The peak of Victor Kupreichik's playing career was during the 1970s-1980s, when he twice became Champion of the BSSR and, as a member of the student team of the national squad of the Soviet Union, the World Championship three times. As well as twice winning the USSR young masters tournament. Taking part in eight championships of the Soviet Union, the Belarusian master played on equal terms with leading chess players and was in top ten many times.

Mr. Kupreichik successfully performed at numerous international tournaments, occupying medal places, and in 1977 he was awarded the title of the international master. Three years later, he became the FIDE grandmaster. Mr. Kupreichik, who celebrated his 64th birthday in July, is still registered among the Belarusian chess leaders.

Meanwhile, in Montenegro's Budva, Anastasia Zezyulkinina completed her performance at the European Youth Chess Championship. In the under 18 age category, the Belarusian chess player claimed the gold medal in the 'classic' category, earning 7 points and outscoring 49 opponents in nine rounds (in line with the Swiss system).

Another Belarusian chess player, Maria Neveselaya, took 15th place at the same tournament. Belarusian players have also earned five awards at the European Championship in the 'rapid' category. A gold medal in the under 12 category was claimed by Olga Badelko, silver medals were won by Anastasia Zezyulkinina (U-18), Yekaterina Beinenson (U-16) and Anna Stashis (U-14) and bronze went to Alina Sukalina (U-8).

Unexpected transfer in football mid-season

By Igor Leshin

FC BATE Borisov head coach Victor Goncharenko has left the club to head Kuban Krasnodar, replacing Romanian Dorinel Munteanu. Alexander Yermakovich appointed BATE new coach.

Victor Goncharenko, 36, had managed BATE since November 2007, winning the Belarusian Championship four times. This season, the Borisov squad currently leads the national championship and has every chance to become Belarus' champions for the 10th time. During Goncharenko's tenure, BATE successfully performed on the European arena — playing against the best teams in Champions' League and Europa League.

At Kuban, Mr. Goncharenko will be assisted by another Belarusian trainer, Vadim Skripchenko, (who aided Victor at BATE). Until recently, Mr. Skripchenko had led Minsk FC. BATE's new coach is Goncharenko's



Victor Goncharenko leaves

former assistant, Alexander Yermakovich, (38), a five times Belarus' champion as a BATE player before joining the team's coaching staff in 2009.

Anatoly Kapsky, the BATE General Director, commented on Mr. Goncharenko's transfer, "Victor had personally told me about Kuban's interest. He met the Chairman of the Krasnodar club's Board of Directors, Oleg Mkrтчan, and later, we discussed the proposal with the latter. Our talk was not easy as Victor wished to complete his work for

BATE. However, the huge interest on the part of Kuban's Head yielded fruit and Mr. Mkrтчan convinced me eventually. I understood that all sides would benefit if Mr. Goncharenko moved to Krasnodar just now. Kuban's proposal was not a surprise for me. In recent times, Victor received many proposals of this kind and I knew of each of them. He believed it was his obligation to inform me on all proposals."

Mr. Goncharenko has signed a 4 and a half year contract with Kuban. This season, the Krasnodar team (that includes the Belarusian defender — Maxim Zhavnerchik) is in 10th place among the 16 squads of the Russian Premier League, having earned 14 points from 12 matches. Currently, Kuban is, for the first time, taking part in the Europa League's Group Stage — with no success so far.

The Belarusian coaching duo will debut on October 20th in an away match against Dinamo Moscow as part of the Russian Championship's 13th round.



Vladimir Samsonov still in good shape

Again among the best

Vladimir Samsonov earns silver at European Table Tennis Championship, hosted by Austrian Schwechat

On the final day of the competitions Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus (15th in the world ranking) played two games. At first, the leader of the Belarusian national team defeated Greek Panagiotis Gionis (64) in the semi-finals — 4:2. However, in the final match for the champion title, 37 year old Belarusian athlete failed to fight on equal ground with Dimitrij Ovtcharov of Germany (ranked 6th) and lost — 0:4.

Moreover, Vladimir Samsonov jointly with Yevgeny Shchetinin and Pavel Platonov claimed bronze medals in the team tournament, which was won by German athletes, followed by Greek tennis players. Over the years of his career, Samsonov was European champion six times in various events, including thrice in singles (1998, 2003, and 2005).

This time, 2012 European champion Victoria Pavlovich fails to enter the medals podium in women's singles, losing in the quarterfinals to German Ying Han — 3:4.