

Athletes' worthy results

By Igor Fiodorov

Athletes from Belarus claim several awards at World Weightlifting Championships in Wroclaw

Yekaterina Shkuratova of Belarus earned a bronze medal, lifting a total of 291kg (130kg in the snatch and 161kg in the clean & jerk). Thailand's Chitchanok Pulsabsakul had the same result (131kg+160kg) but the Belarusian took the lead, being lighter in weight. Ms. Shkuratova also won a small bronze medal for the third best result in the clean & jerk.

In the men's under 105kg, Andrey Aryamnov was absent, due to injury, so Belarus was only represented by Oleg Loban, who took bronze in the snatch (lifting 182kg) but failed in the second exercise. Ruslan Nurudinov of Uzbekistan became the World Champion (190kg+235kg).

In the over 105kg category, Yevgeny Zhernosek came fifth over two exercises, lifting a total of 416kg (190+226). Russian Ruslan Albegon became the World Champion, lifting 464kg (209+255).

Rocket master on top form

Belarusian Vladimir Samsonov wins Table Tennis World Cup silver medal

The world event was hosted by Belgium's Verviers, with Vladimir Samsonov representing Belarus, competing against 19 other sportsmen from around the globe. The second round saw eight top tennis players battling for supremacy, joined by the winners of the remaining 12 sportsmen split into four groups.

The final 12 (8 plus 4 from the groups) were also split into four groups, with two from each going through to the third round, to fight for the championship title (under the Olympic system).



Vladimir Samsonov

Vladimir Samsonov was seeded in the fourth group, jointly with Chuang Chih-Yuan (Taiwan) and Jung Young-Sik (South Korea) and reached the semi-finals — where he played German Timo Boll (number two tennis player at the tournament) to confidently win 4:0 (11:8, 11:4, 11:8 and 11:8).

In the finals, Samsonov played Chinese Xu Xin where, despite his numerous attempts to push his opponent to play from the left side, the Chinese player managed to use his strong top spin, defeating the Belarusian 1:4 (6:11, 14:12, 8:11, 9:11 and 7:11). Of course, a World Cup silver medal is certainly a worthy achievement.

Tsmoki Minsk almost defeats the favourite

On eve of match against European basketball leader CSKA Moscow, fans hope for level-headed play from their team

By Dmitry Baranovsky

The army club has been dominating all tournaments for a long time and arrived in Minsk to play in the VTB United League as a favourite. Previous meetings with Belarusian Tsmoki had ended with confident victories for the Moscow team but the Minsk squad has been enjoying a confident start to the season, after a change in line up and new training regime. The 'dragons' recently defeated VEF Riga and Lithuania's Neptūnas, from Klaipeda, although CSKA is of a quite different level.

The Minsk team went on the attack early on, pushing to score, and created the illusion of being worthy rivals. Tsmoki also defended well, placing their opponents in an uneasy position. However, just before the first interval, CSKA



Tsmoki Minsk basketballers battle CSKA, but lose VTB United League match

caught up, leaving Minsk just four points ahead. By the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Minsk players were still doing well, keeping fans in suspense. However, CSKA's

greater experience eventually won out, allowing the Ettore Messina team to break the nerve of the Minsk players. If Branko Mirkovic and Pavel Uljanko had hit the tar-

get, it would have pushed the game into overtime, but their attempts failed, with the match ending on Sonny Weems' penalty, to leave the score at 62:66.

Tennis autumn spent in France

Belarusian tennis player Victoria Azarenko fails to win final WTA tournament in Istanbul

During the group stage, Vika lost a decisive match to Chinese Li Na, and American Serena Williams went on to win. Since Azarenko was absent, none could impose any serious threat to Ms. Williams.

In the absence of her more prominent countrywoman, Alexandra Sas-

novich supplied good news, winning a major ITF international tournament in French Poitiers (with a prize fund of \$100,000) after defeating Swedish Sofia Arvidsson. Ms. Sasnovich (ranked 165th by the WTA) also played well at the Open GDF Suez Nantes Atlantique, reaching the finals, where she confidently beat Magda Linette of Poland — 4:6, 6:4, 6:2.

In the men's tennis, Max Mirnyi (partnered by Romanian Horia Te-

cau) has, sadly, not finished the season on a high note. In the doubles semi-finals of the ATP World Tour 1000 BNP Paribas Masters Tournament in Paris, the duo lost to Alexander Peya (Austria) — seeded second — and Bruno Soares (Brazil) — 6:3, 2:6, 3:10. The defeat has knocked Mirnyi and Tecau out of any chance of attending the ATP final in Istanbul and the season is practically finished for the veteran of Belarusian tennis.

FC BATE was one step from desired tenth championship title

By Vladimir Dmitriev

The match at the Gorodskoy Stadium in Borisov was interesting in being the last for FC BATE Borisov at the football arena familiar to all fans of football, since its remaining matches are all now 'away'

When the new season begins, the national champion will kick off at the newly-opened, super-modern stadium, the construction of which is almost complete. BATE was keen to defeat top rival FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk (topping the table for 139 days) -- especially having lost its past five matches. A win at home would have ensured its claiming of the 10th championship title. However, the Borisov players failed in their attempt.

The hosts took two powerful shots at Eduardas Kurskis' net, thanks to



BATE fails to gain championship title in game against FC Shakhtyor

Alexander Hleb concentrating on setting up passes for other players. Sergey Krivets turned both into goals, equalising the score set by Dmitry Osipenko. Sadly, Dmitry scored a third goal, bringing disappointment to BATE and their fans. Alexander Yermakovitch, the Borisov head coach looked disheartened, but spoke with optimism, saying, "Our team has a tendency to play well all through a match but to leave a brief opening for its opponent, allowing it to score. We'll work on this. As for the title: we need to wait. Our next match is against Zhodino, not far from Borisov. We invite all our fans to attend!"

Leader of national team

Pentathlete Stanislav Zhuravlev placed 3rd in 'Championship of Champions' in Qatar

Shortly before the end of the 2013 modern pentathlon season, the prestigious international tournament 'Championship of Champions' was held in Qatar's capital of Doha, with three Belarusian sportsmen invited to participate. Only Stanislav Zhuravlev claimed a medal: bronze in the men's individual event, having lead in fencing (1st place) and done well in swimming. He was less successful in the riding (11th place), though this did not hold him back until the final. In the combined competition of running with shooting, he overtook Argentinean Emanuel Zapata (in 3rd position) and finished in an impressive 12 minutes 3.79 seconds (4th place).

Over all, across five events, the Belarusian pentathlete gained 5,696 points, behind winner Frenchman Christopher Patte (5,760) and silver medallist Cuban José Figueroa (5,720). Many of the top athletes from the UK, Hungary, Italy, China, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the Czech Republic were absent, but the current world champion, Lithuanian Justinas Kinberis, was able to attend, finishing 5th.

Mr. Zhuravlev is the clear new leader of the national men's team, with the highest world rating among his colleagues on the squad (34th). He is the only Belarusian pentathlete to have reached the individual final in the 2013 World Championship in China, with a final position of 15th.