

Seizing chance for victory

By Igor Leshin

Brest Meshkov HC loses away match to Berlin, in 3rd qualifying round of EFH Cup, but retains its chance of reaching next stage of Europe's second major tournament

The away game in Germany was against Füchse Berlin, a Bundesliga leader; the strong club also reached the Final Four in last season's Champions League. It was a real test for HC Meshkov Brest, although they played well in the first half, leading 10:8. Nevertheless, Željko Babić's trainees lost their advantage eventually, succumbing to a 20:22 defeat.

The Brest club's Maxim Baranov scored six times, while Dmitry Kamyschik and Robert Markotic earned four points each. Füchse Berlin's two-goal advantage doesn't guarantee it a place in the next round, so our squad should expect a tough return match: hosted by Brest's Victoria Sports Complex, on November 30th.

Debut in National Hockey League

Belarusian defender Dmitry Korobov debuts in the NHL, the world's strongest hockey league, playing for Tampa Bay Lightning club: making him the ninth Belarusian player in NHL history



Dmitry Korobov in NHL

In the regular championship match, Tampa lost to Los Angeles — 2:5. Dmitry Korobov, 24, was making his debut with Tampa Bay Lightning, spending 13 minutes and 21 seconds on the ice, with a plus/minus indicator of '0'. He failed to score, achieved a body-block and lost two passes.

Korobov began the current season with Tampa Syracuse Crunch club, in the American Hockey League, but was called into the NHL on November 11th, after Tampa Bay Lightning lost to Boston and a number of its key players were injured.

In the first period of the match, Dmitry Korobov paired with Tampa's Finnish 'veteran', Sami Salo, then entered the ice with young Czech Radko Gudas, whom he knows from his days with Syracuse Crunch.

Final match of season provides food for thought

Turkey-Belarus: why Georgy Kondratiev's squad need to shake up their play



Despite good performance, national team of Belarus lost in the match against Turkish national squad

By Yegor Glebov

The match against Turkey perhaps fully met Mr. Kondratiev's expectations, since the Belarusian coach spoke much of taking the initiative to attack: at press conferences before

and afterwards. Although the final score was not to Belarus' favour (2:1), the match was memorable, with the team demonstrating a worthy performance, after suffering criticism for most of the past year.

The match was truly positive for

the Belarusians, with Vitaly Rodionov scoring brilliantly (co-authored by Alexander Hleb). Mr. Kondratiev was so happy that he 'forgot' to offer any replacement. His first experiments with the initial line-up began after the 67th minute: late substitutions in a friendly

match relax the players, which does not necessarily ensure goals. Until then, the coach observed the results of his training sessions with pleasure. The Belarusian squad succeeded with quick, short passes, pushing the Turks into a position where they were unable to influence play. It was like soup boiling in a saucepan.

Despite this exemplary performance, long dreamt of, no more goals were forthcoming. Efficient dribbling and short passes brought the ball to the point of scoring, but without result. Clearly, more goals are needed and not just in the last minutes! It's likely that the squad will change tactics for the selection round of the 2016 European Championship.

Among the team's faults were a goalpost pass, a crossbar and a low cross, which Alexander Guttor failed to use to our advantage — rolling the ball in front of the net. Some of our defence played well, with Yegor Filipenko demonstrating fine football and Alexander Martynovich playing wonderfully (with some brilliant attacks). Sadly, Oleg Veretilo failed to distinguish himself, as did Maxim Bordachev.

In attacking, the Belarusian team needs to focus on scoring, keeping its concentration at all times. It's the only way to earn sufficient points to reach the European Championship. If Mr. Kondratiev uses the same line-up, they may be more inclined to defend than attack. He is a cautious and rational coach so is unlikely to start the tournament without thought but baby steps may be the best solution.

Basketballers on track with Eurochallenge

Tsmoki-Minsk finishes first round of Eurochallenge as leaders of Group H

By Igor Grishin

After a tough struggle, the hosts won the game at Minsk Arena, defeating Hungarian Szolnoki Olaj KK with a score of 76:68. At one point the Minsk squad were over ten points behind; however, the final quarter was decisive, with the Belarusian club achieving victory. The teams' American legionaries performed best, with Demonte Harper earning 9 points, Petty Perry 15 points and Keith Benson 14.

This is the second victory in a row for head

coach Donaldas Kairys' trainees, who won their away game in Bulgarian Samokov; Tsmoki-Minsk defeated local Rilski — 78:73. However, in the first match of Group H, Tsmoki-Minsk were narrowly defeated by Romania's BC Mures Targu — 79:83.

The Group H standings after the first round are as follows: Tsmoki-Minsk and Szolnoki Olaj KK both have 5 points, while BC Mures Targu and Rilski Sportist Samokov both have 4 points.

The Belarusian cham-



Tsmoki-Minsk defeats Szolnoki Olaj KK

pions' next matches are as follows: December 3rd, against BC Mures Targu; December 10th, against Rilski Sportist Samokov; and December 17th, against Szolnoki Olaj KK.

The top two teams

from the eight groups will enter the second group round, with matches scheduled for January-February 2014; the winners of the four groups will then enter the Eurochallenge play-offs.

Table tennis highs and lows

Vladimir Samsonov fails to reach men's singles final in German Open Table Tennis Championship (part of the World Tour series) despite being seeded third

The semi-final match against Chinese Zhendong Fan finished with Samsonov's defeat — 2:4. Beforehand, the Belarusian had gained victory over four opponents. In the 1/32 final, he beat Swedish Kristian Karlsson — 4:1, followed by Japanese Kendzu Macudayra in the 1/16 final, with the same score. In the 1/8 final, he knocked out Chinese Zhou Yu — 4:0, and, in the 1/4 final, defeated Portuguese Marcos Freitas after a tough struggle — 4:3.

Also at the Berlin tournament were Dmitry Chumakov, Kirill Barabanov and Andrey Milovanov, who failed to qualify in the men's singles — as did Kirill Barabanov and Andrey Milovanov in the doubles.

Victoria Pavlovich was knocked out in the first round of the major competition (1/32 final) losing to Chinese I-Chen Lee — 3:4. Meanwhile, Alexandra Privalova failed to go beyond the qualifying round.