

Shots in Danish Odense

By Igor Grishin

Two Belarusian marksmen claim European Championship 10m medals, in Danish Odense

The bronze medal in the women's individual 10m air-pistol shooting went to Victoria Chaika, following her second place in the qualification round. Across four target points, she earned 383 points; in the finals, she earned 178.2 points, while French Céline Goberville claimed 201.5, to become European champion, followed by Croatian Marija Marović, on 198.3 points.

Belarusian Yekaterina Kruchenok was also among the eight finalists, occupying seventh place (96.9 points). In the team standings, Belarus failed to claim a medal, since only two representatives were available, instead of the necessary three.

Vitaly Bubnovich took European Championship silver, with his result of 205.9 points in the 10m air-pistol final, behind Israeli Sergey Richter (207.3 points). The latter came up from sixth place in the qualification round (624.4). Bronze went to Juho Kurki from Finland (182.1) while Italian Niccolò Campriani, who led in the qualification round, setting new world and European records (631.2) had to leave unexpectedly after gaining just 119.9 points, which left him in sixth place. Belarusian Ilya Chergeiko failed to qualify for the finals, being ranked ninth, while Yury Shcherbatsevich occupied 45th place.

The young and elderly alike take to their skis

Minsk Ski Track-2013 was recently held in the Belarusian capital's Vesnyanka suburb, having traditionally been hosted by the Raubichi complex. The change of venue gathered an unprecedented crowd, eager to enjoy the last snowy days of winter in the fresh air.

By Dmitry Baranovsky

Traditionally, a variety of distances are included, with representatives of various state administrative bodies competing alongside the general public: an individual 2km mass start for the leaders of state administrative bodies and state organisations; individual races for sporting veterans and those from the Great Patriotic War; mass events for school children and students and those from fitness clubs across the capital; and a 4x2km relay for ministry and agency teams (one including the President). Taking the last leg, Mr. Lukashenko kept the pace set by Oleg Ryzhenkov, Sergey Bulygin and Yelena Zubrilova, retaining his team's significant lead, to take victory. Second place went to the Vitebsk Region Executive Committee team and bronze was awarded to that of the Minsk Region Executive Committee. Teams were also entered by the Council of Ministers, the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus, and by various regions and the city of Minsk.

Summing up the results of competition, the Presi-



President's team takes first place in ski relay race at winter sports holiday *Minsk Ski Track-2013*

dent shared the secret of success, stressing the need for patience, conserving energy until the vital moment. He views sport as a cornerstone of the nation's development and looks forward to Belarus hosting a major skiing and biathlon event

before long.

"Recently, I reviewed a proposal to reconstruct our main winter sports centre of Raubichi; in two or three years, you won't recognise it. I can confidently say that we're ready to host a Biathlon World Cup stage or that

of a European Championship or World Championship — in cross-country skiing and biathlon." Of course, the relevant international federations will need to grant Belarus this honour.

Minsk Ski Track was a

true delight, creating a wonderful sporting atmosphere, with something to appeal to everyone — from tug of war and other contests to raffles, and, of course, a variety of entertainment. Having celebrated winter, we are now ready to greet the spring!

Hockey players' great struggle for Cup of Hope

Dinamo Minsk hockey players defeat Moscow's Spartak at home in overtime, in third match of Cup of Hope's 1/4 finals, qualifying for next round

Dinamo Minsk are aiming high after failing to reach the Gagarin Cup play-offs. In Moscow, the squad laid the groundwork for their victory in the Cup of Hope tournament, winning their first two games and raising fans' hopes. They began the home match as favourites and in a positive mood, despite lacking team captain, defender Jere Karalahti. Forwards Yevgeny Khuzeev and Libor Pivko were also absent, replaced by Teemu Laine and Dmitry Meleshko. Meanwhile Denis Gorbunov, who usually plays with Bobruisk's Dinamo-Shinnik in the Junior Hockey League, has stepped into the shoes of Andrey Stas, the



Dinamo Minsk players enter semifinal of Cup of Hope

Belarusian national hockey team forward; following injury in early February, during a selection round for the Olympics in Danish Vojens, Andrey remains out of action. In the absence of Jere Karalahti, the captain's armband went to forward Alexander Kulakov.

Russian Spartak was playing with seven members of its affiliated team, from the Junior Hockey League.

After a successful first period, when five pucks were delivered by both teams within 13.5 minutes, the Moscow squad seemed to tire a little. The score remained tied but Dinamo took a 3:0 victory in overtime.

Dinamo Riga is next to face Minsk, in the semi-finals, having defeated Ukrainian Donbass following a penalty shoot-out.

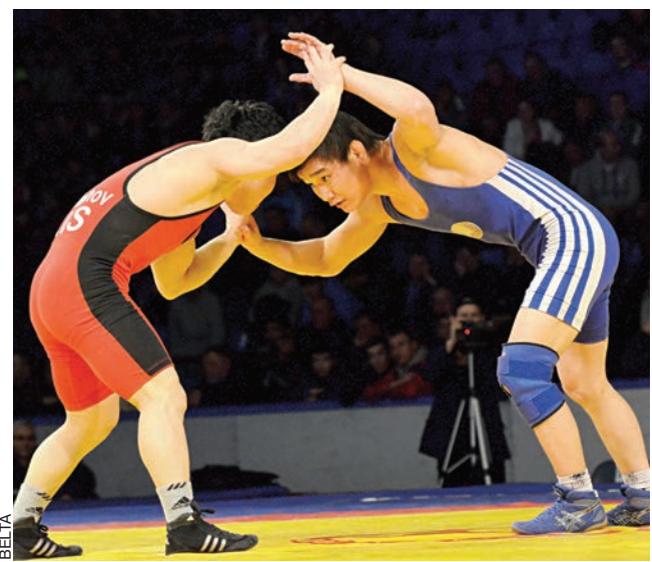
Medals harvest on the carpet

By Yegor Glebov

Belarusian wrestlers claim one gold and two bronze medals on first day, followed by two gold, two silver and four bronze on second, at International Freestyle Wrestling Grand Prix Championship

The event in honour of three time Olympic champion Alexander Medved was hosted by Minsk's Sports Palace, delighting fans with a clutch of eleven medals in total. On the first day, Vladislav Andreev won the under 55kg category, defeating Russian Stepan Sorkomov in the finals. Meanwhile, bronze medals were claimed by Belarusian Vladlena Vydrenko (under 51kg) and Svetlana Lomashevich (under 55kg). The latter defeated her teammate, Natalia Kovzunova, in the bronze final.

Belarusian Murad Gaidarov (under 84kg) and Ivan Yankovsky (under 96kg) both



V. Andreev conducts final battle against S. Sorkomov

took gold the following day, while Omar Megomedov (84kg) and Maria Mamoshuk (63kg) were awarded silver. Alexey Nikolaev (120kg), Anastasia Guchok (63kg), Anna Savenya (67kg) and Vasilisa Marzalyuk (72kg) all claimed bronze medals.

The Russian national team won the overall standings, boasting four gold, three sil-

ver and seven bronze awards. Belarus came second (3, 2, 6), followed by Azerbaijan (3, 1, 2). Nine countries claimed awards at the Alexander Medved tournament, which has been held in Minsk since 1970. Since 1994, the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA) has given the tournament the Grand Prix category.