

Good acceleration and worthy finish

Belarusian road racer Alena Omelyusik performs worthily in Vuelta a El Salvador road race in Central America, occupying second place overall and top of mountain and sprint classifications

By Igor Grishin

In the final, fifth stage of the competition (83.1km) Alena Omelyusik finished 8th, just 3 seconds behind the winner: Lithuanian Inga Cilvinaite (1 hour, 50 minutes and 7 seconds). The last day's cycling did not radically affect the positions of the leaders, with Alena taking second place overall and topping the two most prestigious individual nominations: mountain and sprint events.

Cycling for Astana BePink team in the Vuelta a El Salvador tournament, Alena won the first and second stages, and took second place three times: in the prologue, and third and fourth stages. This continues her success from earlier in the season, during the multi-stage Tour of Costa Rica race, in which she was third overall and won the mountain nomination. Ms. Omelyusik also won the Grand Prix el Salvador this year.



Alena Omelyusik pleased with her performance

Place in latest rankings

By Kirill Karin

International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) releases latest national football team rankings, with Belarus falling to 83rd place

Since the previous ranking was published, Georgy Kondratiev's trainees have only played once, losing to Bulgaria in Sofia — 1:2. Bulgaria moved up from 72nd to 67th place after this victory (with 518 points) while Belarus fell to 83rd position (420 points).

Belarus is hosting an international friendly against Iran in Austria on May 18th: Iran boasts 692 points and is ranked 42nd.

Belarus' future opponents in the Euro 2016 qualifying tournament occupy the following places in the FIFA rankings, released in March: Spain is ranked 1st (with 1,510 points), Ukraine is 18th (911 points), Slovakia occupies 50th place (588 points), Macedonia is placed 82nd (421 points), and Luxembourg stands in 120th place (242 points).

See you in Pyeongchang

By Valentin Orlov

Solemn ceremony closes 11th Winter Paralympics-2014, at Sochi's Fisht Stadium, on March 16th

The closing ceremony was held under the fitting motto 'Reaching the Impossible'. The whole world has been admiring the amazing achievements of Paralympic athletes: some of their efforts seemed inconceivable — attained through sheer strength of will and spirit.



In all, 547 Paralympians, from 45 countries, took part, competing for 72 sets of medals across five sporting spheres. More than 300,000 tickets were sold for the competition, which was attended by over 2,400 print media, television and radio-broadcasting representatives.

The Russians claimed most medal points, winning 80 events

(30 gold, 28 silver and 22 bronze), followed by Germany — 15 medals (9, 5, 1), Canada — 16 (7, 2, 7) and Ukraine — 25 (5, 9, 11). The national team of Ukraine was second only to Russia in its number of medals.

The national team of Belarus won three bronze awards, finishing in 18th place in the medal standings. Vasily Shapteboy won two medals in the visually impaired biathlon while team veteran Yadviga Skorobogataya won a medal in the cross-country skiing for those with visual impairment.

Medals were claimed by athletes from 19 countries in all.

Favourable draw for basketball

Turkish Istanbul hosts group draw for Women's FIBA World Basketball Championship

The Belarusian national team are in Group C, facing squads from Australia, Cuba and the Republic of Korea. At the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, they beat Korea 63:53 but lost to Australia 63:84. Our squad was also defeated by the Australians — 59:83 — during their debut at the 2010 World Championship in the Czech Republic. Belarus came fourth, losing to Spain in the match for bronze — 68:77.

Group A comprises Brazil, Japan, Spain and the Czech Republic, while Group B is composed of Mozambique, Turkey, France and Canada. Group D will see Serbia, China, USA and Angola battling.

The three best teams from each quartet will continue through to the next round, to be hosted by Turkey from September 27th to October 5th.

Another worthy trophy for BATE



Super Cup in winners' hands

By Igor Grishin

BATE Borisov footballers win Belarus' Super Cup for fourth time

The Super Cup match has opened a new football season in Belarus, with Belarus' ten-time champion BATE Borisov winning the honorary trophy. Playing on artificial turf at Minsk's Football Manege, BATE de-

feated Minsk FC — winner of the Belarus Cup in 2013. The score was just 1:0, with the victorious goal scored during the 20th minute, by Borisov club newcomer Filip Mladenović.

This was the fifth Super Cup match — won four times by BATE: in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014. Gomel took the cup in 2012. BATE receive a Br70m cheque while the runner up takes Br30m.

Silver medal in Kontiolahti



Darya Domracheva's silver finish

By Yegor Glebov

Triple Sochi-2014 Winter Olympic champion Darya Domracheva comes second in 10km pursuit (four target ranges) at E.ON IBU World Cup 8, in Finnish Kontiolahti

Finnish biathlete Kaisa Mäkäräinen won the event, having also taken gold in two sprint races. Third place went to Russian Olga Zaitseva. Ms. Mäkäräinen took the lead immediately, setting off from first position. Despite two misses at the target ranges, she finished in 30 minutes and 52 seconds. Darya Domracheva set off from 20th position and managed to catch the leaders, assuming second position before too long, thanks to her legendary fast skiing. She hit every target until the final range and was just one minute behind Kaisa. Olga Zaitseva was a full minute and 53.4

seconds behind the Finn, with 5 missed targets.

In 17th place was Belarus' Nadezhda Skardino (+3 minutes 29.5 seconds; 5 misses), while Lyudmila Kalinichik took 31st position (+4 minutes 30.3 seconds; 4 misses) and Anastasiya Duborzova was 51st (+5 minutes 49.7 seconds; 6 misses).

Darya Domracheva showed the best marksmanship of all in the pursuit and was fourth fastest around the track. Her medal is her 56th in the World Cup: 18 gold and 18 silver, as well as 20 bronze. In the all-round standings for the World Cup 2013/14 season, she remains in third place (650 points), behind Tora Berger of Norway (724), and Kaisa Mäkäräinen (781). The Finn was fantastically successful during her home cup stage in Kontiolahti. However, the struggle for the Big Crystal Globe continues.