

# Fifth time for 'gold'

Neman Grodno win 22nd Belarusian Extraleague Ice Hockey Championship, defeating Yunost Minsk by winning four of the six final matches, to claim President's Cup

During the sixth match in the final series, Neman's Vyacheslav Lisichkin managed to leave the score at 2:1, ensuring victory over the Minsk club. Grodno also won last year, and have now claimed the Presidential Cup five times, against six for Yunost (the current record holder).

Yunost and Neman battled for the title in 2011 and remain firm rivals, being ice hockey leaders. Neman forward Stanislav Lopachuk asserts, "Those with some bias concerning the Belarusian championship may change their opinion after this final. I think that the level of play was close to that seen in the CHL. Yunost was set on winning, but Neman was somewhat faster and stronger. Plus, we had fantastic support from our fans, which played its part in our victory."

Neman's joy at winning was evident, with players tossing helmets and head coach Sergey Pushkov into the air! Camera bulbs flashed and champagne popped in celebration, with fans cheering in delight.

Many of Neman's play-



SERGEY SHELEG

Passions running high in each match of the final series

ers now face their next challenge in Polish Tychy, on April 11th and 12th, for two matches against Poland. The second national team features several players from the Grodno club.

The President congratulated HC Neman on its victory in the national championship, saying, "This is the second season that you've

won the championship title fairly, through determination. You've shown us a convincingly high level of professional skill, and it's particularly pleasing to see a regional club winning, showing that sport is developing in every corner of our country. In order to win, you don't need to be located close to the capital

and sponsors. The main thing is to be the strongest, through huge efforts from sportsmen, trainers and all those who work daily towards victory. Your game brought real pleasure to fans and I'm sure that it will be an example for imitation by thousands of young hockey players. Keep playing as you have done!"



SERGEY SHELEG

## First medal of career

By Igor Leshin

**Of eight Belarusian representatives at European Wrestling Championship in Finnish Vantaa, only Alexander Demyanovich claims a medal: bronze (under 71kg)**

Alexander Demyanovich began by defeating Varsham Boranyan of Armenia (8:6) in the preliminary round. In the 1/8 finals, the Belarusian didn't leave his French rival any chance, crushing Artak Margaryan (5:0) and pinning him for final victory. In the quarter-finals, Demyanovich lost to Hungarian Tamás Lőrincz (0:10) in the first 15 seconds of the match, after being pinned by his opponent. The Hungarian went on to take gold in European Greco-Roman Wrestling.

Alexander then defeated Aleksandar Maksimović of Serbia (5:1) and beat Russian Chingiz Labazanov. After initially being down 0:2, he equalised the score and then celebrated victory (4:2). He shares bronze in the under 71kg category with Turkish Yunus Özel while silver went to Rasul Chunaev of Azerbaijan.

The championship is the third in Alexander Demyanovich's career. Last year, he fought for bronze but ended in fifth place.

Freestyle Belarusian wrestlers took four medals: Murad Gaidarov (86kg), Maria Mamoshuk (63kg) and Vasilisa Marzalyuk (75kg) claimed silver while Ivan Yankovsky (97kg) won bronze.

The World Wrestling Championship will be hosted by Tashkent in September.



BELTA

Melitina Sanyuta was perfect in all exercises

## Continuing our graceful tradition

By Yegor Glebov

**Melitina Sanyuta gains three medals at FIG World Cup stage in Lisbon**

In the Portuguese capital, the leader of the Belarusian national gymnastic squad won the exercise with the hoop, having earned 18,050 points. She was second with the ball (17,400 points) behind Korean Son Yeon-jae, and sec-

ond all-round (68,150). The Korean took all-round gold (71,200 points). Belarusian Arina Sharopa came second with the ribbon (17,050) while Son Yeon-jae of Korea took gold again (17,150).

At the next World Cup stage, in German Stuttgart, Melitina Sanyuta took silver with the ball and claimed three bronze medals (hoop, clubs, and ribbon).

## Pleasing fans with very good result

By Igor Leshin

**Belarusian national squad performs well at European Weightlifting Championship in Israeli Tel-Aviv, bringing three medals**

Beijing-2008 Olympic Champion Andrey Aryamnov has returned successfully after a four-year break, taking first place in the snatch, lifting 184kg. In the jerk, he lifted 212kg, taking third place overall (lifting a total of 396kg) and claiming bronze, in the under 105kg category double-event.

Before his appearance at the 93rd European Weightlifting Championship, the Borisov athlete last took part in the 2010 European Championship, in Minsk. He was disqualified for doping and hasn't appeared at any major events since then: also due to injury. Dina Sazanovets lifted a total of 245kg across the two events, and takes the European Championship title.



Andrey Aryamnov on the lifting platform

This is her first such gold, although she won silver at a similar tournament in Albania last year, lifting 252kg (112kg+140kg). At the 2013 World Championship in Poland, she lifted an impressive 259kg (116kg+143kg) to take bronze. Stanislav Chadovich (under 62kg) claimed silver, lifting 293kg

(135kg+158kg).

However, the 2014 European Championship isn't part of the qualification series for places at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro; this year's World Championship, scheduled for November, will see points earned towards placement.

## Preparations in full swing

By Igor Grishin

**Belarusian national handball team occupies third place at international tournament in Polish Lublin**

In the final match, the Belarusians lost, after a tough struggle, to the Russian team — 29:31. Boris Pukhovskiy scored 8 goals: the most for the squad. On the way to the final, Yuri Shevtsov's trainees were beaten by the Poles — 22:27 — and defeated the Czech squad — 31:23.

Because of health problems, Sergey Rutenko, the leader of the Belarusian national team (who usually plays for Spanish Barcelona) was absent in Lublin, as were Alexander Titov (Zaporozhye Motor) and Vyacheslav Shumak (HC Brest Meshkov).

The tournament is one of the most important stages in preparing for the 2015 World Championship play-offs. The first away match, against the Montenegrin squad, is scheduled for June 7th or 8th — while the return will be in Belarus, either on June 14th or 15th.

National squads from Spain, France, Denmark and Croatia already have places in the final of the 24th Men's World Handball Championship — scheduled for January 2015 in Qatar.