



In Minsk, gymnasts gave their best programmes before World Championship

Silver on home stage

Leader of Belarusian national rhythmic gymnastics team, Melitina Stanyuta, takes 2nd place in Olympic discipline — individual all-round — on stage of World Cup, hosted by Minsk Sports Palace

By Yegor Glebov

Melitina Stanyuta stood in second position after the first two all-round events (hoop and ball). Having introduced her compositions with Indian clubs and ribbons, she managed to clinch silver, with 72,866 points. Russian

Yana Kudryavtseva earned 74,583 points across all four events, to take gold, while Russian Margarita Mamun and Maria Titova battled for third place, with Mamun (72,250 points) eventually triumphing. Belarusian Yekaterina Galkina came a respectable 6th, with 68,700 points.

Following the all-round group exercises, the Belarusian squad finished 6th (34,000 points), after a tough battle. The top three positions were separated by less than one point each. In the absence of the Russian national team, due to injury, Bulgaria (34,800 points) claimed gold, with Spain in second

place (34,300) and Japan and Israel sharing bronze (34,150).

The Minsk stage of the World Cup ended with a traditional gala performance, entitled Show of Stars of World Gymnastics. It was the final stage before the launch of the Championship of Europe-2014 in Baku.



Belarus' national futsal team: champions of Europe

Belarus is to receive the World Futsal Championship

By Dmitry Komashko

Belarus is used to receiving the world's best teams and footballers are now picking up the baton from the ice hockey national teams who recently departed Minsk! Within a year, Belarusian fans may be enjoying watching the world's leading junior futsal players.

For the first time in 20 years, the championship will be held outside of Latin America: a circumstance to have aroused much protest among South Americans, where Futsal is second only to football in popularity. According to the President of the European Union of Futsal, Valery Akhmyan, such protests have become quite dramatic at times, with some representatives of Latin American countries accusing Belarus of being insanitary and having a gangster culture. As we might expect, a delegation from the International Federation was pleas-

antly surprised on visiting Minsk.

The Chairman of the Belarusian Futsal Federation, Sergey Buinovsky, notes that the visiting delegation was impressed not only by our infrastructure and sports sites, but by the fact that the national Belarusian futsal team is now European Champion. During the ice-hockey event, our futsal players defeated the Belgians in the Czech Republic, with a score of 2:1 in the final. The organising committee plans to make the forthcoming championship an extension of the recently finished ice-hockey festival in Minsk.

Mr. Buinovsky tells us, "In spite of the fact that futsal is not often discussed in Belarus, it has popularity. We want to host matches not only in Minsk but at the Brest Victoria Sports Centre and, probably, in Borisov or Molodechno. While in the capital, the teams will play at Chizhovka-Arena, while the final will probably be held in the main national sports centre of Minsk-Arena.

Reaching final stage of European Championship second time in a row

By Igor Grishin

Men's national volleyball team reaches final of Championship of Europe-2015

In the final match of Group F, at Chizhovka-Arena, Victor Sidelnikov's squad defeated Turkey 3:1, taking first place in their group. The defeat deprived the Turkish team of the chance for second place, being pushed back by the Swedes who claimed victory over Denmark. The group appears as: Belarus — 15 points, Sweden — 10, Turkey — 9, and Denmark — 2.

The women's national team of Belarus failed to reach the final stage of the continental championship, taking second place in Group A, in Turk-

ish Izmir. In the last match, Victor Goncharov's team lost to Turkey 0:3, leaving the positions as: Turkey — 19 points, Belarus — 9, Finland — 9, and Denmark — 0. In matches between the European top-16, Belarus will twice meet Ukraine.

The final tournament of the Men's European Championship is taking place between October 9th and 18th, 2015, in Bulgaria and Italy, while the women's national teams will play from September 25th until October 4th, in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The last continental championship, which was held in 2013, saw the men's national team of Belarus finish 15th, while the women's squad took 12th position.



Victor Sidelnikov's wards celebrate victory over Turks

Summing up results of the season

By Igor Leshin

Moscow hosts closing ceremony of KHL's sixth season, honouring best hockey players and coaches — including Alexey Kalyuzhny: captain of HC Dinamo Minsk and Belarus' national team captain at IIHF World Championship

The KHL President, Alexander Medvedev, presented the Continental Cup to the regular championship winner: Dinamo Moscow. Meanwhile, the KHL First Vice President, Vladimir Torzhkov, awarded Lev Prague with the West Conference Winner Cup, and State Duma member Pavel Krashennikov presented Metallurg Magnitogorsk with the East Conference winner trophy.

The top KHL sniper and scorer awards went to Metallurg Magnitogorsk forward Sergey Mozyakin, and the team also claimed the Vsevolod Bobrov prize, having enjoyed the greatest number of goals in the regular championship and in the Gagarin Cup.

The highest scoring defenseman of the season is Kirill Koltsov, from Salavat Yulayev (Ufa) while the best goalkeeper is Vasily Koshechkin, of Metallurg Magnitogorsk. The prize for 'Dedication to Hockey' was worthily presented to the Dinamo Minsk veteran Alexey Kalyuzhny.

Echoes of Minsk Championship

Finnish national team goalkeeper Pekka Rinne recognised as most valuable player in World Championship in Minsk

Russian goalkeeper Sergey Bobrovsky showed the best statistical indicators, having defended excellently in the final. Third place among the goalkeepers went to Kevin Lalande, of the national team of Belarus. The valuable Finn came sixth in this hierarchy.

According to the Directorate of the World Championship, the best players in the tournament were goalkeeper Sergey Bobrovsky (Russia), defender Seth Jones (the USA) and forward Victor Tikhonov (Russia). However, journalists chose goalkeeper Pekka Rinne (Finland), defenders Seth Jones (the USA) and Anton Belov (Russia), and forwards Sergey Plotnikov, Victor Tikhonov (both from Russia) and Antoine Roussel (France).

Our trainers recognised Sergey Kostitsyn, Mikhail Grabovsky as our team's best players.

The most effective players in the championship, according to the 'plus-minus' system, were Russians Anton Belov and Victor Tikhonov (both '+10'). Meanwhile, Roman Graborenko ('+6') was the most effective player on the Belarusian squad.

Andrey Gavrilin (Kazakhstan), Ladislav Nagy (Slovakia) and Mikhail Grabovski (Belarus) won face-offs more frequently than the other players.