

New mid-season contracts

National hockey team leaders — Mikhail Grabovsky and Andrey Kostitsyn — have already chosen the clubs to continue their career: Grabovsky remains with the NHL (playing for New York Highlanders) while Kostitsyn the senior signs a contract with his former KHL club — Traktor Chelyabinsk

By Igor Grishin

Mikhail Grabovsky has signed a four year contract with the Highlanders which will bring him around \$20m. On July 1st, the Belarusian hockey player became a free agent in the NHL, after his yearlong contract with the Washington Capitals ended. Mikhail played for the US club during the 2013/14 season, enjoying an annual salary of \$3m. He took part in 58 matches for Washington — earning 35 (13+22) bombardier points and demonstrating one of the best productivity results among his partners: +6. A series of injuries prevented the forward from playing in the championship to his best ability, while his club failed to enter the play-offs. The foreign media believed that Grabovsky and Washington shared a mutual interest in further co-operation, but little information was disclosed about their talks.

Grabovsky has played eight seasons in the NHL, taking part in 425 matches. He made his debut in 2006/07, in the strongest club of the

world of those years: The Montreal Canadiens. Since 2008/09, he has played for Toronto Maple Leafs, but unexpectedly lost that job: his contract with the club was supposed to last for another four years but, in mid-summer of 2013, directors decided to stop buy out his contract (preliminary putting the Belarusian hockey players on a waiver). No NHL team immediately invited Mikhail to join, while his agent — Harry Gristin — began searching for ways for Grabovsky to continue his career. Meanwhile, the Belarusian had no wish to part with the NHL and move to the KHL. While playing for Washington, he had managed to renew his overall record figures (among all Belarusian hockey players who have performed for the NHL) regarding the number of scored goals (107) and bombardier scores under the 'goal-feed' system - 252 (107+145). At present, Toronto continues paying compensation to Grabovsky for its prescheduled buyout.

Grabovsky's new club — the New York Highlanders — performs



Mikhail Grabovsky, one of leaders of the national team

in the NHL Eastern Conference's capital division. Its history began in 1972 and, since then, the team has won the Stanley Cup four times (last time, in the 1982/83 season).

Belarusian forward, Andrey Kostitsyn's signing of a new year long contract with Traktor Chelyabinsk (KHL) has become a surprise. After the last championship ended, the team's heads openly said that Andrey would have to leave the lineup, but eventually, the decision was

reversed. Andrey concluded his first contract with Traktor in September 2012 and decided to remain with the Chelyabinsk team for another year afterwards and won a silver medal at the KHL 2012/13 championship. He has spent two years with Traktor now — taking part in 122 matches and winning 62 (29+33) bombardier points. In addition, Andrey has received 124 penalty minutes and demonstrated the +6 productivity result.

Youth wins awards

By Yegor Glebov

Belarusian boxers and windsurfers medal at the European Youth Championships held in Keszthely (Hungary) and Çeşme (Turkey)

At the European Boxing Tournament, held in Keszthely, in Hungary, the best result among Belarusians was shown by Alexey Aliforov, who won a silver medal in the 59kg category. His teammate, Ruslan Fomchenko (43kg) took the bronze.

In the Turkish town of Çeşme, the European Windsurfing Championship brought Belarus two silver medals in RS:X class. Anastasiya Valkevich appeared on the second step of the pedestal for the under 21s, with her 148 points from the eight races held. With 45 points more, first place went to the French athlete, Jeanne Dantes. Artem Dzhabadov gained the Belarusian team's second silver at the championships among youngsters, with 28 points. Gold was taken by the 15 year old Polish athlete, Radoslaw Furmanský. One more Belarusian representative, Nikita Tsirkun reached a laudable 12 place in the same category. In total, about 230 athletes from 30 countries took part in the challenging championship.

Wimbledon grass might not be right for everyone



Max Mirnyi and Hao-Ching Chan

By Igor Leshin

Max Mirnyi fails to win the Wimbledon Tournament. In the final of the mixed-doubles, the Belarusian, performing with Taiwan's Hao-Ching Chan, finds no answers for Nenad Zimonjić and Samantha Stosur

Actually, Wimbledon is not so bad for Belarusian tennis players, as our very own Victoria Azarenko said, after leaving the tournament.

Our sportsmen won the 2012 Olympic medals here and, in 1998, Mirnyi won the England Open Championship's mixed doubles event (pairing Serena Williams).

This year, London has been unfriendly for Mirnyi and Azarenko though. Victoria, who's been recovering after trauma, lost to the world's 45th seed, Bojana Jovanovski, in the second round — a repetition of last year's undistinguished result. Mirny also failed to demonstrate any bright results in

his signature doubles, which was less unpredictable. In recent times, Mirnyi has continued searching for the best partner and it seems Yuzhny is not the best choice. However, the beginning of the hard season looked convenient for the both tennis players, and it's almost impossible to choose a partner in mid-season, so probably, they will have to stay together for a while.

Meanwhile, a young Belarusian tennis player, Andrey Vasilevsky, has won an international tournament in Astana. In his decisive singles, the 23 year old Belarusian defeated Kazakhstan's Denis Yevseev in two sets. In the doubles, Vasilevsky joined another Belarusian, Yaroslav Shilo, in reaching the final match, which they lost to the Russian-Uzbek duo of Fufygin and Shofaiziyev.

This was Vasilevsky's first win in an International Tennis Federation singles tournament. In doubles, he has won 16 times so far. The player occupies the 747th position in the world ranking, with Belarusian Vladimir Ignatik enjoying the best place in the singles at 218th. In the doubles, the veteran of Belarusian tennis, Max Mirnyi, occupies 21st place, matching Mikhail Yuzhny.

Dinamo ready to test the ice

By Dmitry Krymov

HC Dinamo Minsk will play a friendly match with HC SKA St. Petersburg

The meeting of the two clubs, which starts preparations of the new season of the Kontinental Hockey League, will take place at the Minsk-Arena on July, 26th. This match will become the first in the list of games which are included in the preparatory plans of the Belarusian team.

On July, 27th the Minsk players will go to the Czech city of Kravare, where they will train till August, 7th. The stage will include two matches with Slovan Bratislava and HC Olomouc. Then, from August, 15th till August, 17th, they will be back on the ice of the Minsk-Arena for the traditional Ruslan Salei Memorial Tournament, in which, besides Dinamo Minsk, HC Sochi, the champion of Belarus Neman Grodno, and also a team of Belarusian clubs will take part.

The Cup of Latvian Railways in Riga will become the last stage of preparation of the Dinamo team for the new KHL season.

Girls show some muscle

By Yegor Glebov

Belarusians win three medals, one gold and two bronze at the prestigious Spanish Grand Prix for Freestyle Wrestling



Vasilisa Marzalyuk

Leader of the national team of Belarus, Vasilisa Marzalyuk, became the winner of the tournament in Madrid in the 75kg category. During her competitions, she beat German, Maria Selmaier and Hungarian, Janet Nemeč. In the final, the Belarusian did not give any chance of success to the Russian competitor, Alena Starodubtseva.

In 53kg group, two representatives of Belarus, Irina Kurochkina and Nadezhda Shushko, fought. The latter defeated Laura Mertens from Germany, while Kurochkina was stronger than the host of the tournament, Yevgeniya Bustavad. In all the previous matches, Nadezhda Shushko has been stronger; however, Irina Kurochkina triumphed on the Madrid mat in their persistent duel. Having lost in the semi-final to Johanna Mattsson from Sweden, in a duel for 3rd place, the Belarusian defeated Marina Rueda from Spain.

At the beginning of the tournament, Anastasiya Guchok (60kg) conceded to the representative of Russia, Svetlana Lipatova. Having passed through consolatory stage, Guchok won bronze, breaking the resistance of the American, Sally Roberts.