

Flawless Rabchenko

Belarusian boxer wins World Boxing Association intercontinental title in first middle weight category (under 69.9kg)

In the Welsh town of Queensferry, Belarusian Sergey, aged 25, who is ranked second in Europe, defeated local Bradley Pryce, 30, in a tough match. Despite his weariness, by the end of the 12-rounds, the three judges awarded Sergey with victory (116-112, 117-112, and 116-113). Pryce has seen 10 losses and 31 wins (18 by knockout) and is placed 12th in Europe. Rabchenko was boxing his second match with new promoter Hatton Promotion and remains unbeaten in the professional ring. Since 2006, he has snatched 17 wins (12 by knockout).

Silver for birthday

Prone position world shooting champion Sergey Martynov climbs World Cup round medals podium for second time this season



In April, Sergey won in South Korean Changwon and, four days after his 43rd birthday, took silver at American Fort Benning. In the preliminary round, in the small calibre prone position from 50m, he hit 600 out of 600 possible, repeating the world record. In the qualification round, he earned 598 points — the same result as local Eric Uptagrafft (ranked second). In the finals, the American was defeated but, alas, Martynov allowed German Henri Junghaenel, 23, to slip ahead with perfect shooting.

Prolific co-operation

Belarus' Higher School for Coaches launches taekwondo course

The programme is to be supported by the Embassy of the Korean Republic to Belarus, as the Embassy's representatives noted at a sitting of the National Olympic Committee. The South Korean guests have donated equipment and uniforms to the Belarusian Taekwondo Federation for the national Belarusian team to wear for the 2012 London Olympics. The Secretary General of the Belarusian National Olympic Committee, George Katulin, emphasised that the Belarusian Taekwondo Federation has enjoyed three years of liaison with South Korean colleagues, with results now evident. The South Korean guests commented that, in Korea, taekwondo is a national sport promoted at all levels. Mr. Katulin thanked representatives of the Korean Embassy to Belarus for their support and voiced his best wishes to the Korean city of Pyeongchang in its bid to host the 2018 Olympics.

Parade of graces at Minsk-Arena

Sportswomen from 35 countries take part in European Championship in Rhythmic Gymnastics

By Yuri Karpenko

Belarus was hosting the high ranking competition for the first time, having earned the right through numerous awards won at major tournaments — including world and European championships and the Olympics. Of course, the Republic boasts rich experience in hosting various international sports events, including in rhythmic gymnastics.

About 200 gymnasts arrived in Minsk from 35 European countries, including such leaders as Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Italy, Switzerland and Israel. A traditional show of global gymnastic stars crowned the tournament, which was held at Belarus' best indoor sports complex — Minsk-Arena. Its organisers did a great job of ensuring the European Championship was held at a worthy level. According to the state coach in rhythmic gymnastics, Victoria Kushnir, Minsk-Arena was ready to host the tournament several days ahead of schedule.

The International Gymnastics Federation's Technical Committee spent two days overseeing the facility, testing equipment and the Arena's overall readiness. They noted that Belarus is the first state where the Committee's work has gone without a hitch.

"The venue for the European Championship boasts the most modern infrastructure, enabling the tournament to be held at a high level. For sportswomen, this competition is part of their training for the World Championship in French Montpellier, which is to host a selection round for the 2012 London Olympics in October. I'm impressed with Minsk-Arena, which is a super modern multi-functional complex, with a velodrome and skating rink, in addition to a hockey rink," said Ruedi Hediger, the Vice-President of the European Union of Gymnastics.

Our Belarusian sportswomen gathered a rich medals harvest at the tournament, capturing six in all: three gold, two silver and one bronze. Lyubov Cherkashina



Cherkashina wins three medals at European Championship

shone especially brightly, leading with her exercise with ball and clubs. She also took bronze in her exercise with the hoop. In the all-round team event, the hosts of the tournament (Lyubov Cherkashina, Melita Stanyuta and Anna Ryabtseva) were placed second, behind Russia and ahead of Ukraine. More medals were captured by junior graces: in the team all-round, Kristina Kostevich, Darya Antyukhevich, Alesya

Lozhka, Maria Kotyak, Yekaterina Smusenok and reserve Alexandra Popova took gold and captured silver in the group exercise with a skipping rope. In the medals ranking, Russia was placed first, followed by Belarus.

Among the European Championship's guests were former stars such as Irina Chashchina, Anna Bessonova and Olga Kapranova. The latter three participated in the traditional show of stars.

Rapid seconds of Recice

By Yuri Kovalev

At season's second World Cup round, in Czech Republic, canoe and kayak rowers from Belarus capture nine medals

Athletes from 39 countries competed in the first round, but this number rose to 45 in the second round, in Recice. Russia's participation heated up the competitive mood, as they claimed several medals. Hungary and Germany did not send their core line-up, as in the first round in Poznan, but our Belarusian team's nine medals (five gold, one silver and three bronze) are no less impressive as a result. Five times, they starred in the most prestigious Olympic events.

The female rowers repeated their Polish success. In the 500m x 4 finals, Irina Pomelova, Nadezhda Popok, Olga Khudenko and Marina Poltoran set the pace, winning by two seconds. The British athletes came second, with Portugal in third. In the Olympic 500m pairs, Khudenko and Poltoran again claimed victory, improving on their bronze in Poland (when they had tired after the team event). In the Czech Republic, the Belarusians left the other pairs well behind, with Austrian Yvonne Schuring and Viktoria Schwarz forced to accept silver.



Roman Petrushenko and Vadim Makhnev go the distance

The men's kayak four (1,000m) ended with a revelation, as Belarus' back-up team of Pavel Medvedev, Stanislav Strelchenko, Sergey Findyukevich and Vitaly Belko took gold, to everyone's surprise. In the semi-finals, they lost to Australia and the Beijing Olympic 'golden' team of Roman Petrushenko, Alexey Abalmasov, Artur Litvinchuk and Vadim Makhnev. However, in the final race, the ambitious 'reserves' from Belarus snatched the lead and, after slowing in the middle of the race, sped up at the end to claim first place. In fact, the core team finished fourth, just one second behind the winners — showing the extent of the competition. In the photo

finish, the Australian and Portuguese squads came second and third. In the kayak pairs, Petrushenko and Makhnev took gold in the 500m.

Oleg Yurenka failed to do so well, competing in the most prestigious race: the individual kayak 1,000m. He finished behind Denmark's Rene Holten Poulsen and Portugal's Fernando Pimenta. In the canoe pairs, Dmitry Ryabchenko and Alexander Volchetsky came third in the 1,000m and 500m, while taking silver in the sprint, behind Russia's Yevgeny Ignatov and Ivan Shtyl. With the Bogdanovich brothers, Andrey and Alexander, they also competed in the 1,000m canoe four — capturing gold.

Artistic mirrors in the water

By Kirill Pirogov

European Synchronised Swimming Champions Cup gathers athletes from 13 countries in British Sheffield

Belarus was represented in every event at the tournament, while Russia and Spain didn't take part in the combination event, losing the opportunity to win the main prize — the Champions Cup.

Ukraine won overall and took bronze in the pairs and group event, topping the general qualification list. The Italian swimmers finished second, leaving Belarus in third place overall. Among the pairs, Belarusian Anastasia Mekhanikova and Darya Novoselskaya came tenth while finishing seventh in the group event and fifth in the combination exercise. In the latter, gold went to Ukraine, silver to Italy and bronze to Great Britain.