

Gauging rivals before main tournament

By Kirill Karin

Moscow hosts finals of this year's World Sambo Cup

Traditionally, the Sambo World Cup event for A.A. Aslakhanov's prizes heralds the World Championship, allowing athletes to gauge their competition. Obviously, Russian wrestlers present a true obstacle when competing on home ground. However, Belarus managed to snatch 13 medals in all.

Among the men, Magomed Abdulganilov produced the best Belarusian result: gold (under 82kg). Success at the preliminary stage was followed by first place in his subgroup and a place in the finals. In the decisive struggle, he crushed Russian Sergey Sapozhnikov. Three more Belarusians also did well, claiming silver: Andrey Kazusenok (90kg), Yevgeny Semochkin (100kg) and Yuri Rybak (above 100kg).

Yulia Borisik was unequalled among the women (above 100kg). The finals in this weight category witnessed two Belarusians competing for the top medals. Yelizaveta Moiseenko came a close second behind Yulia's experience and skill. Silver also went to Yulia Steshenko (48kg), Anna Zaletskaya (56kg), Yekaterina Prokopenko (60kg) and Irina Omelyanova (68kg).

The Belarusian national squad also captured three bronze medals in Moscow.

Olga Panarina creates true cycling sensation

October 3rd, 2011, sees Minsk cycling track witness first world record



Olga Panarina (R) demonstrates high class speed-cycling

By Yuri Karpenko

Olga Panarina, 26, (coached by Stanislav Soloviev) set a world record in the 500m heat, with a time

of 33.168. She beat the last record set by 0.128 seconds — achieved at the World Championship in Polish Pruszków, by Lithuania's Simona Krupcekaitė, on March 25th, 2009.

Since the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Panarina has been performing in sprint disciplines, winning four medals at world championships. At the World Champion-

ship in 2010, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, she took two bronze medals — in the 500m heat and in the keyring (8 circles of 250m). At this year's World Championship in Dutch Apeldoorn, she claimed gold in the 500m heat and silver in the keyring.

Panarina was not the only star to shine at the Belarusian Cup, as Apeldoorn gold-medallist Tatiana Sharakova and 2008 World Championship gold and bronze medallist Alexander Lisovsky both took gold. Panarina also won other sprint disciplines: the keyring, sprint and team sprint. Sharakova was once again named best all-round athlete and won the team pursuit with Oksana Popko and Yelena Dylko.

Panarina's record is a landmark in the history of Belarusian cycling. "Belarus is currently bidding to host the 2013 World Cycling Championship at Minsk-Arena," explains Stanislav Soloviev. "The decision will probably be taken at April's World Championship, to be hosted by Australia. The heads of the International Cycling Union are considering all bids carefully but Panarina's achievement speaks for us, showing that Minsk-Arena is a huge asset for Belarus."

Michel Platini's blessing

By Yuri Kovalev

Union of European Football Associations' President takes part in events dedicated to 100th anniversary of Belarusian football in Minsk

Despite his extremely busy schedule, Mr. Platini found time to visit Belarus, taking a special charter flight to spend half a day at an official celebration dedicated to the anniversary of Belarusian football.

He placed a time capsule in the foundations of the Centre of Belarusian National Football Team Training, which is being constructed with financial support from FIFA and UEFA. It is to boast two artificial fields and one natural grass field, with lighting and heating equipment. A hotel is planned nearby, accommodating a rehabilitation centre and rooms for



Michel Platini signs autographs

theoretical classes. Our Belarusian football squads will enjoy comfortable training conditions, with the facilities used by other Belarusian football clubs and junior teams when the main team is playing away.

During the official celebrations, a blitz-tournament

was held nearby, for eight children's teams from Minsk's football schools. The winners were awarded prizes by Mr. Platini, who noted his happiness at seeing tomorrow's star footballers. This is not his first visit to Minsk and he noted with satisfaction that Belarus now boasts many

great football achievements, such as defeating France in the Euro-2012 qualifying round. "You beat France, despite lacking a specialised training centre; I wonder what you might achieve when you have one..." joked the legendary football player.

The celebration of the 100th anniversary of Belarusian football began in August in Gomel, since it was there that the first football match was hosted in Belarus. A number of tournaments have been held countrywide, played by children and veterans, promoting the beautiful game more widely.

Numerous foreign guests arrived in Minsk to congratulate their Belarusian football colleagues, including heads of football federations: Holland's Michael van Praag, Russia's Sergey Fursenko, Ukraine's Grigoriy Surkis, and those from other countries.

Another medal

Belarusian trampoline jumpers Nikolay Kazak and Vyacheslav Model enrich medal haul

The duo came second for their synchronised jumping at the 6th World Cup round in Czech Jablonec, scoring 50,500 points. Japan's Takashi Sakamoto and Yasuhiro

Ueyama claimed gold. Belarusians Tatiana Petrenya and Yekaterina Mironova were placed seventh for their synchronised jumping among women. In the individual jumps, Anna Gorchenok finished fourth, with 54,800 points, while Yevgeny Zhukovsky was eighth.

Football dessert finishes with battling draw

By Kirill Pirogov

The final UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying game for the Belarusian national team has been a partial success, producing a draw. No spectacular play was evident but nor did they disappoint fans by losing

Bernd Stange's trainees have lost to the Romanians twice, but each time found strength to gain 'revenge'. The away game in Bucharest had no special tournament meaning, since the Romanians had no opportunity to rise above third place in Group D and the Belarusians lost their chance to reach the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship finals back in September. Meanwhile, both teams were lacking their leading players.

As hosts, the Romanians took the initiative early on, opening the score in the 19th minute. The opponents found a weakness in our defence, which appeared because Yegor Filipenko was injured and was receiving medical assistance, allowing Adrian Mutu to score quite easily. The Romanians continued to play aggressively but, in the last minute of the first half, Pavel Plaskonny gave a superb pass, setting up Sergey Kornilenko to score.

The draw didn't last long, with Mutu restoring the hosts' lead in the second half; Cesena's forward slammed a penalty kick high into the net. Belarus' Stanislav Dragun managed to then salvage a point for Belarus, sending the ball high into the net from head on, making the most of Philipp Rudik's pass in the 82nd minute.

Record coupled with ticket to London

Belarus' Marina Domantsevich wins traditional international marathon in Slovakian Kosice

In unusually warm weather, Domantsevich com-

peted finally against Ethiopians Halima Hassen and Seada Kadir Adilo, who finished second and third respectively. The Belarusian set the pace for most of the race, breaking away after 35km to set a

personal record of 2 hours, 33 minutes and 53 seconds. This is Marina's third win over a long distance, having claimed victory in Riga in 2010 and in Lodz in 2011.

"I wanted to show an even

better result but, due to the weather, it was impossible. I simply concentrated only winning. My target this season was to qualify for the Olympics, which I've achieved," smiles Marina.