

Minsk-2006 team conquers basketball Europe

Basketball returns to Belarus via BC Minsk-2006

By Dmitry Komarov

Andrey Krivonos' team has now been playing in Europe for three years, having debuted in the EuroChallenge — Europe's third most important tournament. This was followed by the VTB United League and the current season promises fans the best play yet from the Belarusian team.

For the VTB United League, the squad began playing in the extended championship, against the strongest

teams: from Russia, Ukraine and the Baltic States. They played against Lietuvos Rytas in a home match and are now through to the EuroChallenge group stage for the first time (having lost to the Antwerp Giants from Belgium last year).

Facing Sokhumi from Tbilisi in the first qualification round, Minsk-2006 lost the away match and needed 16 points to go through to the next stage. It seemed impossible, so the final score of 93:67

at Minsk-Arena for the return game was a surprise to local fans and those from Georgia. Even the Minsk team never expected such a 'knock-out'.

"Back in Tbilisi, I said that not everything had been lost," noted Mr. Krivonos after the match. "Today's success was the result of my players finally believing in themselves; this was our aim from the beginning of the season. They've understood that we can win, even when losing by 16 points?"



Minsk-2006 basketballers smash Georgia's Sokhumi — 97:63

Finishing series cheerfully

By Nikolay Demchenko

Dinamo Minsk continues its successful performance at CHL Championship



Dinamo Minsk in heat of action

Before the most difficult away matches in Kazan, Nizhnekamsk, Ufa and Chekhov, it was vital for Dinamo Minsk to do well in their home series of matches. With all due respect to Kazakh Barys, the squad wasn't much of a threat, so their defeat was nothing to shout about. Crushing the team from Astana, Marek Sikora's trainees completed their series of five home matches with good results, losing only four points to Barys.

During the game, Dinamo did well in the first segment, and withstood attack in the second, while confidently claiming victory in the third.

"I believe that we've played perfectly in this series, including in terms of earned points," notes Marek Sikora, Dinamo Minsk's head coach. "The CHL is a difficult competition. It's dangerous to think that you can win every match. I do like the fact that so many fans attend our games. I hope they continue supporting our team: having 15,000 fans in the stands during the match against Barys was cool!"

Moneybox of exact shots

By Igor Khadasevich

Montreal Canadiens' Belarusian forward, Andrey Kostitsyn, opens score of NHL 95th season

In the 2nd minute of the home match against Calgary, Andrey Kostitsyn efficiently shot his team ahead. During a change-over of players, he joined Max Pacioretty in making a counterattack against

defender Derek Smith. Pacioretty shot from the left flank, sending the puck behind the goal. However, it rebounded, allowing Kostitsyn to hit it into the empty corner of the net.

Unfortunately, there was little other cause for joy for the 21,000 Montreal fans crowded into the Bell Centre Stadium during their first home match. In the middle of the first period, Montreal saw

its defence falter, leading to its rivals scoring three goals. Despite valiant efforts to save the match in the second and third periods, the squad lost 1:4.

The younger of the Kostitsyn brothers, Sergey, also did well, helping set up goals for the third match in a row. His goal pass failed to please Nashville fans with victory in their first home game of the season.

New leader deserves respect

By Konstantin Denisov

Sergey Korneev's bronze award crowns Belarusian national team's performance at World Boxing Championships in Azerbaijan

The young athlete from Minsk boxed perfectly at the tournament, which is seen as a rehearsal for the forthcoming Olympic Games. Only the ending was spoilt, as Korneev conceded defeat in his final match against Ukrainian Alexander Usik, allowing him to become world champion. Pleasingly, Korneev's boxing did guarantee him a medal and a place at next summer's Olympics in London.

Veteran Victor Zuev, the Athens Games medallist, was beaten by German Erik Pfeifer's aggressive style in the quarter-finals and, in order to qualify for the Olympics, Zuev needed the German to defeat young Anthony Joshua of the UK and reach the final. Sadly, Pfeifer had to retire after the first round, where he had his nose broken.

"We can't say that the team was unsuccessful in Azerbaijan," notes head coach Valery Kornilov. "The

tournament brought together 600 boxers from 134 states, with only those from 33 countries receiving Olympic places and those from 22 states receiving medals. Belarus was among them, so it is ranked

star. Meanwhile, Sergey Korneev is ranked third in the world, giving him the right to perform at Olympiads. He was born and raised in Belarus. It's a huge success!"



Sergey Korneev defeats Alexey Yegorov, of Russia

17th-20th out of 134 states. Konstantin Makhankov's performance in the 91kg category was a true breakthrough for Belarusian boxing: we saw a new world-level

Other Belarusian boxers still have a chance to qualify for the London Olympics, with the second selection round taking place from April 13th-20th, 2012, in Istanbul.

UEFA agrees with BATE arguments



BATE's remaining home matches in Champions League to begin earlier than planned

UEFA is accommodating BATE's request to shift its two remaining home matches in the Champions League group stage. Its game against Milan (Italy) will begin at Minsk's Dynamo Stadium at 20.00 Belarusian time (18.00 central European time) on November 1st, while the final match with Czech Viktoria Plzeň will start at 21.00 (19.00) on November 23rd. Previously, it was planned that both games would kick off at 21.45; however, as Belarus doesn't shift to winter time this year, the remaining matches will be held earlier. Guest matches with Milan on October 19th and with Barcelona on December 6th will both begin at 21.45 (Belarusian time).

In the first round of Group H, Victor Goncharenko's trainees drew (1:1) in an away match against Viktoria and lost to Spanish Barcelona 0:5. After two rounds, Barcelona boasts 4 points (goal difference — 7:2), Milan has 4 (4:2), Viktoria has earned 1 (1:3) and BATE also has 1 (1:6). The top two teams will go through to the next round of the Champions League while the third squad will continue performing in the Europa League play-offs.