

## Volunteers being trained together

Russia and Belarus jointly training volunteers for 2014 IIHF World Championship in Minsk and for Sochi Olympiad, notes Belarus' Sports and Tourism Minister Alexander Shamko, speaking at National Assembly's House of Representatives

Mr. Shamko notes that Belarus has already taken the first steps to develop its volunteer movement; in particular, volunteers were involved at the recent World Cycling Championship in Minsk. "We're now looking at training volunteers jointly with Russia, on the eve of the World Hockey Championship and the Olympiad in Sochi," adds the Minister.

A draft law on physical culture and sport, which includes information on volunteers, is being given a second reading at the House of Representatives. Regarding the introduction of stewards to protect public order at competitions, Mr. Shamko explains, "In my opinion, our existing procedures are adequate, so there's no need to alter anything."

## Another start — another victory

By Igor Grishin

Alexandra Duliba of Belarus wins international semi-marathon in Dushanbe



Alexandra at the finish

The total length of the distance of the semi-marathon, dedicated to the Day of Tajikistan's Capital, totalled 21.97km and the competition brought together athletes from Belarus, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and other CIS states. The number of entrants included representatives of 14 Dushanbe twin cities.

Belarusian Alexandra Duliba has won the semi-marathon while Uzbekistan's Andrey Petrov was first among men.

This March, Alexandra Duliba has set the national record of Belarus (2:26:08) and she also finished first at the prestigious Los Angeles marathon.

# SKA club continues its phenomenal season

Minsk's handball team is one of Europe's most titled clubs



Sergey Shilovich is one of SKA handball club's leaders

By Dmitry Baranovsky

In the Soviet years, the team was always in the top tournaments, becoming

a symbol of Belarusian handball. Alas, it later found itself in deep crisis, yielding its leading place to Belarusian HC Meshkov

Brest and Dynamo, which represented the country in top tournaments for many years. However, this season has seen SKA's revival.

Finally, they've managed to bring together a battle-worthy group, under the guidance of coach Spartak Mironovich — who

has helped other clubs gain success.

SKA's victory over Finnish Riihimäki in the Baltic League's Final Four has brought the team into the European Cup for the first time in several years and they are already doing well in the Challenge Cup finals, having defeated Norwegian Runar in their first match (away) 32:29. According to the coach, the tournament is a priority for the team, since victory will give convincing proof of the potential of the Minsk squad.

The club also has a good chance of winning the Belarusian Championship, being ranked in first place at present. Dynamo Minsk's victory over HC Brest Meshkov has ensured SKA a place in the final two, pushing HC Brest Meshkov into third position, despite it being a regular representative of Belarus in the Champions League and a participant of the recent Final Four. SKA and Dynamo will be battling with all their might for the title of Belarusian champion.

## Two different games

By Yegor Glebov

Belarus' national team hockey players break the series of defeats in matches against Latvian national squad which lasted more than four years, but don't consolidate the success

The first game was dictated by the Belarusian squad which made a claim for victory in the match already in the first period after scoring two non-responsive goals. In the second period hockey players of the Belarusian national team increased the gap to three pucks. During the whole match the players of the Latvian squad couldn't resist Andrey Skabelka's trainees and the game finished in favour of Belarusians — 3:0.

Compared to the first match, definite changes happened in the squad the next day, enabling young hockey players to perform. Stepan Goryachevskikh was replaced by Dmitry Milchakov while Ilya Kaznadei replaced Oleg Goroshko in the defensive line. In the first attack line Yevgeny Solomonov



Forward Vyacheslav Andryushchenko (right) in action

entered the ice rink instead of Alexander Kulakov and Alexander Kitarov was replaced by Sergey Drozd. The line-up also included forward Yevgeny Dadonov who hasn't performed in the previous match either. However, from the middle of the match Kitarov began to appear on his usual position in the centre of the starting line jointly with Drozd and Meleshko.

After the defeat in the first match Latvian hockey players, who haven't lost to Belarusians since December 2008, rehabilitated in the eyes of their fans and took the revenge. The total balance of matches between the national teams of Belarus and Latvia is still in favour of the Latvians who have won in 15 meetings, suffered 10 defeats and 3 draws (goal difference is 83-66).

## Konstantin Sivtsov on form again

By Igor Leshin

Konstantin Sivtsov of Gomel wins Giro del Trentino second cycling stage of 224.8km, beating his closest rival, Mauro Santambrogio of Italy, by four seconds, to lead general classification

"We've shown that not only Wiggins and Froome can win; our team has other strong cyclists. I can say confidently that I'm ready to help Bradley at the Corsa Rosa," noted Sivtsov, after the finish.

The previous day, Sivtsov's Sky team won the second semi-stage, covering 14.1km and beating their close Astana rivals by 13 seconds. It was the group's first 'time' victory since the Qatar race in 2010.

Belarusian Konstantin Sivtsov, who is one of six cyclists on the team, tells us, "Today, we performed well, promoting our team spirit. We didn't feel under pressure, being relaxed before the race and working together beautifully. We've returned from

Tenerife and will now be seeing how we do in the mountains. We're gradually finding our feet and I think that we'll continue improving. It's vital to tackle the Giro d'Italia on top form."



Sivtsov's victorious finish

Over all, Sivtsov is in second place, behind French Maxime Bouet.