

The worst start during performance in KHL

Dinamo Minsk lost for the fifth time in succession, continuing their worst start in KHL

By Yegor Glebov

Cities change, arenas change and competitors change. However the scoreboard, which is still not Dinamo Minsk's friend, does not change at all. Alexander Andrievsky's team suffered their fifth successive defeat and returned home in far from the best of moods. The saddest thing is that this is a game the Dinamo team could have won. The opposition players of Lokomotiv Yaroslavl were average in attack and quite weak defensively. This defeat means that Dinamo Minsk have lost 7 out of their 8 matches this season.

Again, the Minsk players did not manage to play a game without making some very basic errors, and again missed a puck at the beginning of the game, when the pads of Lars Haugen were hit by Staffan Kronwall. Already 1:0 down, at the beginning of the second period, the captain of the Dinamo team, Alexey Kalyuzhny scored his first goal of this season and levelled the score in a powerplay. However it was the first and the last success of the Minsk guests, while the hosts kept their 9,000 fans happy on 3 occasions.

"It has not been the first time we have made such gross errors in de-



Because of defensive errors, Lars Haugen had to do his best

fence. During two periods the game was quite equal. We had problems only in killing penalties, and there were moments when we had the chance to score. However we started making these errors and the game changed. In the third period our strongest players tried to fight, but they lacked the needed strength. We have scored just 11 goals in eight matches. Certainly, there are questions — and they are

very big ones. It is possible to win with one goal, but it is very difficult," said Interim Head Coach, Alexander Andrievsky after the match.

Before playing in Yaroslavl, Alexander Andrievsky's team have lost to Severstal Cherepovets (2:4), SKA St. Petersburg (1:5) and Atlanta Mytishchi (2:3). Dinamo players have achieved just one victory, from the 8 matches of the 6th KHL Champion-

ship that they have played this season. On September, 10th they defeated HC Slovan Bratislava, at the Minsk-Arena, 2:0. Apart from their recent losses, Dinamo have also lost to Riga Dinamo (1:2), CSKA Moscow (1:2, in overtime) and HC Lev Praha (1:3).

The Minsk team's next match will be played on September, 28th at the Bobruisk-Arena against Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg.

Possible change of format

By Igor Grishin

René Fasel, the President of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) recently spoke about plans for the World Championships during the opening of the 137th General Congress of the IIHF. This is in response to the Kontinental Hockey League's (KHL) suggestion of holding the World Championship every two years in February.

"We will continue to play the men's World Championship every year including Olympic years, and this especially to give the younger players an opportunity to showcase their development on an international stage," stated Fasel.

"The tournament will continue to take place in the first week of May, with the exception of Olympic years, where the necessary timing adjustments will be made."

"We will continue to play with sixteen teams. Most likely in four groups of four, but this is still subject to discussions with our commercial partner." And lastly, the President informed the assembled body, for sportive reasons, the quarterfinal games will be played with the cross-over format.

Medals at the first day of championship

Belarusians win bronze in cycling's Road World Championships

During the first day of the Road World Championship in Tuscany, Belarusians Vasily Kiriyenko and Konstantin Sivtsov appeared on the winner's podium. Together with teammates from Sky the Belarusian cyclists were the 3rd placed bronze winners of the 57km elite team race. First place went to the Belgian cycle team Omega Pharma-Quick Step and the silver was won by the Australian team Orica-GreenEdge.

The British cycle team, Sky, which finished 22.55 seconds behind the champions, included not only, Kiriyenko and Sivtsov but also the British cyclists Chris Froome and Jordan Thomas, the Norwegian, Edvald Boasson Hagen, and Australia's 'Richie' Porte.



Kiriyenko adds this win to his recent success at the Vuelta de España where he won the 18th stage of this prestigious days-long event.

Silver of home tournament



Alexandra Privalova

By Igor Leshin

Belarusian Alexandra Privalova wins silver at the Belarus Open Table Tennis 2013 which was held in the Minsk Palace of Tennis

The Belarusian sportswoman could not match Germany's Sabine Winter in the final, losing 1:4. But on the way to this crucial match, Alexandra Privalova comfortably beat Swede Linda Bergström and Belarusian Yelena Dubkova with scores

of 4:0, and in the quarterfinal she defeated Eun Hee Lee from South Korea 4:3 in a closely fought match. In the semi-final Alexandra faced Linda Kremers from the Netherlands, comfortably overcoming her opponent 4:2.

In the men's singles, the Belarusian national team's veteran, Yevgeny Shchetinin was successful in all the preliminary rounds, defeating the Hungarian Martin Palatinus, Russians Taras Merzilkin and Artur Grigoriev, and also the Bosnian Admir Duranspahic with scores of 4:0. In a dramatic semi-final duel the 43 year old Belarusian fought head-to-head with 32 year old Japanese Kaii Yoshida, but eventually lost 3:4 in a tight 7-set match. Shchetinin won bronze for his valiant efforts, and his opponent went on to win the tournament, comprehensively defeating his 16 year old compatriot Kohei Sambe 4:0.

However, the loser of the adult final became the winner in the youth tournament, beating another Japanese sportsman Yuto Higashi — 4:2. The Korean Eun Hee Lee, beaten by Privalova in the quarters, was the best in the female competition and defeated the Japanese player Eku So 4:3.



Andrey Kravchenko

End-of-year review

By Yegor Glebov

Belarusian decathlete Andrey Kravchenko wins Grand Prix of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in all-round events

Following the results of performances in 2013, the 27 year old Belarusian collected 25,084 points across all tournaments, beating the Moscow World Championship's prize-winner, Canada's Damian Warner (24,980 points) and Germany's athlete Pascal Behrenbruch (24,768 points). Another Belarusian

all-round athlete, Eduard Mikhan, took 7th place with 24,068 points. 172 sportsmen took part this season, competing in 15 competitions of the Grand Prix series.

In the female event the best among Belarusian heptathletes was Yana Maximova who took 11th place with 18,222 points. She was followed by fellow Belarusian Yekaterina Netsvetaeva with 17,875 points. Ukrainian Anna Melnichenko became the best with 19,310 points. In all, 169 sportswomen from all over the world took part in heptathlon competitions during this season.