



## Fans from all four corners

By Mikhail Gomonov

**The largest army of fans, who have arrived in Belarus, consists of our neighbours — the Russians**

In total, according to the press centre of the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus, hockey fans from 60 countries of the world came to Minsk, including from the South American continent — from Brazil, Peru and Chile.

For those countries, where ice and snow only occur in the mountains, hockey is an exotic sport, therefore it is difficult to say who these guys are following.

The presence of Brazilians in Minsk is rather symbolic, as in one month, in the homeland of the legendary Pelé, the Football World Cup will begin.

# Hundredth match for national team

By Igor Grishin

**Defender, Vladimir Denisov celebrates his hundredth match with the national team after receiving The Best Player Award in the game against Kazakhstan where Belarus beat them 4:1**

The 29-year-old sportsman has calmly taken his achievement. “I haven’t been sure that this play will become a celebration, but I have been aware that it will take place at the tournament,” said Vladimir Denisov. “Certainly, it is pleasant to win and to get The Best Player Award, but the whole team has helped make it possible. We won because everybody showed his best character. Somebody played perfectly in attack, somebody else in de-

fense and some players delivered the puck. For the team, it is not important who the best player was. Only the common victory is of importance.”

Glen Hanlon, the trainer of the team for a lot of these hundred matches told “I remember when I saw Denisov for the first time, when this long-haired fellow was still playing for Keramin. Already then he had distinguished himself through his virility and active play. There have been real leaders in the history of the team of Belarus: Ruslan Saley, Vladimir Tsyplakov. Vladimir Denisov follows in their footsteps. I hope that his next matches will be as successful as his hundredth.”

It is interesting to note that Vladimir Denisov has also successfully participated in the next match at the Ice Hockey World Championship against the Swiss team, where they won 4:3.



Vladimir Denisov



Kirill Gotovets

## Pleasant return from overseas

By Igor Leshin

**The invitation to the national team for participation in the Ice Hockey World Championship became a possibility for Kirill Gotovets to come back home. Since 2008 he has lived in the United States, where he improves his hockey skills and receives a higher education at Cornell University.**

The World Championship in Belarus became the third for him as part of the national team and certainly, Kirill is happy with that. “It is always pleasant to come back home and after a year of absence to see

the family,” said Gotovets, who represented Belarus at world tournaments in 2010 and 2011. “My parents and brothers come to matches of Minsk-Arena to support me.”

Kirill Gotovets left Minsk in order to enter the prestigious Shattuck St. Mary’s High School in Minnesota. ‘Shattuck’ is famous for its NHL players. Whilst at the school, Tampa Bay Lightning paid particular attention to Kirill, and drafted him in the seventh round of 2009. Cornell University involved him in performances in 2010. Kirill has improved a lot as a player. In the team of head coach Mike Shafer, he plays the role of defender and does not participate in attacks.

# Defeats from unexpected source

The French national team turned out to be the troublemakers in an otherwise peaceful hockey tournament

By Yegor Glebov

**Canadians were first to be defeated**

When a team like France beats a main contender like the Canadians, 3:2, what should the reaction be? Some Canadian fans panicked, while others were confused.

It is possible to understand all of these reactions, taking into account the fact that the forefathers of hockey are still high from their Olympic triumph in Sochi. It’s inconceivable how the French, occupying 12th place in the world IIHF ratings, could surpass the ‘Maple Leaves’.

However, similar things sometimes happen because of the alignment of level in international hockey. Besides, one failure in the group stage does not mean a catastrophic end result. And the Canadians proved this in their following games.

**Then the Slovaks...**

Thanks to four pucks in the third period, and also doubles of Roussel and Amar, the French made a second surprise, defeating the national team of Slovakia, 5:3.

Looking at the statistics before, the result seemed inevitable: The teams played five times, and in each meeting the Slovaks have grown in strength. But on the ice of Chizhovka-Arena, the Frenchmen broke this system. Down after two periods, with the score at 1:3, they did not lose heart, upsetting the Slovak goalkeeper four times in the third period, while they themselves did



French national team celebrates victory over Canadians

not miss at all. It is necessary to note this defeat was helped by a considerable quantity of expul-

sion on both sides, but on this day, luck was on the side of the surprising French team.

## Nautical Nostradamus

**Petrovich the Crab works hard, predicting the results of ice matches of the World Championship**

Petrovich predicts the outcome of games by means of mini-pucks, which he receives from workers at the Open Ocean Centre of Oceanography, where the sea-seer lodges. On either side of the puck there are images of flags of teams. After dropping to the bottom of the aquarium, and after the manipulations of the crab, whichever flag is showing, that team will be the winner. Although the results of Belarusian matches are not predicted by Petrovich because, according to workers of the centre, the crab is a fan of the Belarusian team.

Thus, in spite of the fact that in most cases the forecasts come true, the crab sometimes makes mistakes. Therefore, the soothsaying shellfish did not manage to guess the victory of the French over the Canadians and some other results.

Any person can check on the ‘awareness’ of the foreteller by the results of the matches. In the duel between Switzerland and Germany, Petrovich gave the victory to the German players. In the game between Czech Republic and Italy, the nautical Nostradamus gave victory to the Czech national team, while in the match between Russia and Kazakhstan; he chose the Russian hockey team.

And how accurate was he? You already know the answer...