

Kristina Vernigorina.
Photos by Alexandra Kanalina.

The Tula Oblast Boxing Junior Championship for men born in 2002–2003 opened in Pervomaysky on 15 March.

The contest was held in the modern Yubileyniy sports complex. Fighters from Shchekino, Tula, Kimovsk, Bogoroditsk, Alexin, Kurki-no, Uzlovoy, Kireevsk and Novomoskovsk gathered here to compete for the title.

Director of the Yubileyniy Complex **Sergey Seregin:**



Sergey Seregin

— After Shchekinoazot helped to renovate the sports complex, we have managed to achieve better results in training our young people. Two of our trainees (from the Vityaz boxing club) were included in the Russian Junior Boxing National Team, Alexander Fomichev and Ivan Onishchenko.

The main Yubileyniy hall is full of light, very comfortable and spacious, with all the necessary facilities and equipment. We can now hold contests at any level, from district to national championships. By the way, we have already hosted two regional contests. To commemorate Chemist's Day, we are planning to invite several masters of sports for a series of events.

We have about 400 students, some as young as 3 years old. They do boxing, freestyle wrestling, swimming, and sports acrobatics. Our sponsor Shchekinoazot pays for travelling to contests and buying uniforms. The company also allocates funds for maintaining the complex. Thanks to their help, young boxers can train in the Vityaz club for free. This is such a great initiative and support for the region's aspiring athletes and sports as a whole.



Vasily Stebletsov

Vasily Stebletsov, chief coach of the Vityaz club, technical delegate of the championship:

— The winners of the championship will proceed to compete for the Central Federal District title. This championship is very important and has gathered the strongest athletes from the

Young Athletes Qualify for the Central Federal District Boxing Championships



The Yubileyniy Complex welcomed the region's strongest boxers.



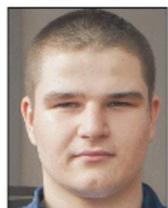
Mikhail Shevyakov, chief referee, chairman of the judges for boxing in Tula Oblast:



The championship has gathered the strongest boxers. The judges look at technique, accuracy, tactics, competitiveness, and when a boxer can turn the tide and take control of the fight.

region. The competitors are paired according to their weight category and age.

The Vityaz sports club was represented by its strongest athletes, Ivan Onishchenko and Alexander Fomichev. Despite their young age, they were included in the Junior Russian National Team.

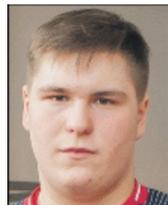


Ivan Onishchenko

Alexander Onishchenko, 15 years old, is a two-time silver medalist of the Russian Championship.

— I have been training intensely for this championship, so I will accept nothing less than victory! My coaches are Vasily Stebletsov, Sergey Baranov and Roman Shapovalov. I practice six days a week, which leaves little spare time, but I manage

to do my studies! After the regional championship, I am going to the international contest which starts 25 March in Khimki. I would like to thank our sponsor for the conditions they have provided for training and their financial support.



Alexander Fomichev

Alexander Fomichev, 14 years old, winner of the Championship of the Central Federal District, bronze medalist of the Europe Championship in Romania:

— I have been training for this championship for about a month. My goal is to win. I have been in boxing for six years. I chose it because it's a sport for real men.

Coach **Alexander Zhukov** representing the Tula sports club Metal-



Alexander Zhukov

lurg has brought five of his athletes to this championship:

— The most important task that I gave them is to participate and gain some experience. I count on at least one golden medal in one weight category.

Denis Volodin, 15 years old, arrived at the championship from Tula:

— I've been boxing for five years. My parents introduced me to this sport and I grew to love it. I practice five days a week. At the regional championship, I'd like to win in the 57 kg category and go to the district championship.



Denis Volodin

Winners:

Elmir Gasanov, 50 kg;
Adel Kisenko, 52 kg;
Nikita Kondratyev, 54 kg;
Denis Volodin, 57 kg;
Evgeny Efremov, 60 kg;
Andrey Shlapakov, 63 kg;
Yuri Shishkin, 66 kg;
Ismail Ganizhev, 70 kg;
Egor Maximov, 75 kg;
Anton Sviridov, 80 kg;
Ivan Onishchenko, 80+ kg.



Tula Karate Team Bring Home Six Medals From Moscow

On 16 and 17 March, Moscow hosted the Russian Cup and the All-Russian Contest for Oriental Martial Arts (kobudo).

The team from Tula Oblast consisted of the region's 13 best athletes. Anastasiya Borisova, Denis Makhin and Maxim Polokhin won gold medals at the All-Russian Contest. Ivan Kraev won bronze. Maxim Polokhin was runner-up in the Russian Cup while Maxim Avdoshin came third. The young athletes practice in the Drakon Tula City Centre of traditional karate under the supervision of their coaches Anton Kondratyev (chief coach), Vasily Strekalov and Elman Safarov. **On the photo:** Maxim Avdoshin, Denis Makhin, Anastasiya Borisova, Maxim Polokhin, Ivan Kraev.



Field Athletes Participate in the Youth Sprint Tournament

The finals of the All-Russian championship will take place in Kazan. This tournament is the most prestigious event for Russian school-age athletes.

Over a thousand athletes participate in it. There are three age categories: 10–11, 12–13 and 14–15 years old. The programme includes four disciplines: 60-meter race, long jump endurance run and throwing a projectile. Traditionally, the Tula team is strong in the relay race. The President of Tula Oblast's Federation of Field Athletics Vladimir Allakhverdyan believes that our team can expect 6–8 medals in this championship. **On the photo:** Ivan Chernov, Sergey Rudensky, Roman Allakhverdyan, Yakov Nikulin.