



Tula Region Governor Alexey Dyumin and Russian Honored Master of Sports, Olympic Boxing Champion, Alexander Povetkin with Tula athletes.

Alexander Povetkin Gave a Master Class to Young Boxers

Larisa Timofeeva.
Photo: Dmitry Dzyubin.

From September 9 to 15, Shchekinoazot hosted the Central Federal District's boxing championship among men aged 19 to 40 at the Yubileyny Sports Center in Pervomaysky. The region's Governor Alexey Dyumin and Russian Honored Master of Sports, Olympic Boxing Champion, Alexander Povetkin, were the honored guests at the opening ceremony.

On September 10, Alexander Povetkin arrived in the Tula Region specifically to give a master class for amateur boxers. The tournament was opened by the Governor Alexey Dyumin. He greeted the young athletes.

"Practice sports, achieve success and win; moreover, you have someone to look up to. Alexander Povetkin does a lot to promote sports and delivers master classes. I am sure everyone here watched his last fight with Fury. The endurance and persistence demonstrated by Alexander Povetkin during the fight are beyond all praises," the head of the region noted.

Today, boxing and sports enjoy great support in the region, including from the government and the business community. Evgeny Zubitsky, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Federation of Boxing of the Tula Region, was among those whom Alexey Dyumin thanked for this help.

A total of 106 athletes aged 19 to 40 representing 16 regions and ten weight categories came to the Central Federal District Championship. The Tula Region was represented by 15 athletes.



Mikhail Shevyakov

"This tournament is really important as its result defines the composition of the Central Federal District team which will participate in the Russian championship which will take place on November 9 in Saratov," **Mikhail Shevyakov**, the Chairman of the Panel of Judges of Tula Region, the Deputy Chief Judge of competitions, told Sloboda. "Athletes from the Tula Region have excellent chances as our team is strong. It brings together several masters of sports, some of them are world-class athletes. The Tula Region is represented by Daniel Lutai, Pavel Zaytsev and Stepan Khitaryan in the Central Federal District team; I believe two or three more people will be added to the team after the tournament. I should note that Shchekinoazot created very good conditions for the competition. A magnificent hall, a ring, locker rooms — athletes and trainers gave a very positive feedback.

Under Shchekinoazot's Good Deeds Program — large-scale campaign to help the district and its residents — we completely updated the Yubileyny Sports Palace and opened the Vityaz sports club," **Dmitry Kozhenkin**, Deputy General Director for Social Affairs at Shchekinoazot, says. "The overhaul here was carried out in the shortest possible time. I would like to note that classes at Vityaz are completely free for children, since the Boxing Center is financed by Shchekinoazot..."

The Yubileyny Sports Center has all conditions to ensure that the brightest sports stars appear every



Dmitry Kozhenkin

year and will be able to make Tula Region famous throughout Russia in a few years. Several members of the Vityaz club are in the Central Federal District team in their age groups. One of them is promising 17-year-old **Ivan Onishchenko**:



Ivan Onishchenko

"I have been involved in boxing for six years; my father introduced me to this sport. First training sessions were followed by first competitions; and now I can not imagine a life without boxing. I love boxing because it helps to build character; I have become a better person, and I have a lot of friends here. In 2019, I won bronze at the Russian championship, now I intend to win the tournament in the Czech Republic. Next year, I will have to perform even better and to move from the junior category to the men's category. I also dream of winning Olympic Gold!"

According to Alexander Povetkin, his father cultivated his love of sport: "He always said that a man should be a warrior, able to stand up for himself, his girlfriend, homeland and family."

The boxing club at Shchekinoazot's Yubileyny Sports Center has 200 members, swimming club — 300, rhythmic gymnastics and acrobatics — 50, freestyle wrestling — 30.

As for the Central Federal District championship for men's boxing, the competitions lasted for five days. The results of the tournament were announced on September 14. The Tula Region's boxing team won 4 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals. Rashad Gasanov (49 kg), Maxim Emelyanov (75 kg), Timur Gamzatov (81 kg) and Sergei Kalchugin were the winners of the tournament. Tula Region topped the medals table.



The Russian champion Alexander Povetkin shared his know-how with young boxers for an hour...



...while children eagerly and as accurately as possible repeated the distinguished athlete's movements.



The boxing competitions at the Yubileyny Sports Center of Shchekinoazot determined the best athletes of the Central Federal District.