Gold Medalists

Genadii Karatzkevitch, the Gold Medalist winner with the highest score, awarded with the John Atanassov statuette:

I am no genius, I am simply good at it

- Genadii, you are only 14. Did you expect to come out first?

- No. I never hoped for that, but I am happy. This is my best performance so far

- This is your fourth international competition. What have your achievements been so far?

- When I entered my first Olympiad I was only eleven. I then got a silver medal. Since then I have always got Gold ones.

- How did you come to be a member of the Belarus team?

- I started learning informatics when I was eight. Initially my parents, who are computer programmers teaching at the University in Gomel, helped me. We don't have specialized informatics classes, so I entered for m a t h e m a t i c s . Nevertheless I started participating in national competitions. Those who rank in the top ten go to training camps. They are organized twice a year and the four with the highest scores go to the World Olympiad. That is how I ended up in the team.

- You already have rich experience. Did you find this year's tasks difficult?

- The tasks were as difficult as in the previous Olympiads. I had the hardest time solving the one with the arrows and the target. A program had to be made to find the best position of the archer in order to finish at the target with the lowest number. This problem was the only one I was not able to finish, scoring only 43 points.

- Have you developed your own strategy of problem-solving?

- I try various ways, and one of them is the right one. I am no genius. I am simply good at it.

- Do you have a good luck charm, as we have seen many of the competitors do?

- No. Actually, when we arrived our guide, Mihaela, made for me and my team-mates bracelets with wooden beads. Maybe they brought me good luck.

- How many hours a day are you in front of the computer?

- Not more than three to four. I like playing football and table tennis, so I try to find time for sports as well.

- Have any technological universities or softwarecompanies approached you yet?

- Not yet. I am still at school. I have yet to be in the 9th grade, so it's too early. I haven't even decided what exactly I want to do yet.

The Medals

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26 Gold Medals were awarded at the Twenty-first International Olympiad in Informatics in Plovdiv. Three each went to China and Korea. Two each were awarded to the boys of Taipe, the USA, Japan, Belarus, Poland, and Romania. One gold medal each went to the Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Tailand, Croatia, Canada, and Iran.

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Fifty-two contestants received silver medals, seventy-five - bronze. The full 800 points were not collected be any contestant, The highest number of points, however, 743, were made by the champion, Genadii Karatskevitch. Task number 4 on the first day was the most difficult for most.

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800 points were scored by a participant from China participating in the parallel 24-hour on-line program. The achievement deserves admiration, though noone knows the age of the participant, or the additional sources and materials used.

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The Bulgarian team participating in the official ranking got two silver and two bronze medals. Ther siver went to Rumen Hristov and Momchil Tomov, the bronze - to Anton Atanasov and Ivan Georgiev. There are also medallists in the host-country's second team: silver for Stefan Avramov and bronze for Mihail Kovachev. Yassen Trifonov from Plovdiv brought a medal for the host town team.