



## Interview with Irina Karavaeva

Sources: <http://www.sovsport.ru/gazeta/default.asp?id=195518>  
<http://sportcom.ru/sport/batut/news42f88368.htm>

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A trampoline and tumbling World Cup competition just took place this past week-end in Ostend in Belgium. The Russians won three gold medals. All three gold medals were won by athletes from the Kuban region (region of Krasnodar). In the men's competition, **Alexander Rusakov** was the best of all, accompanied on the podium by trampolinists from Japan and China. In the women's competition, **Irina Karavaeva** won the gold medal. **Natalia Chernova** took the second place. These same two athletes did not leave a chance to their rivals in the synchronized competition.

**Irina Karavaeva:** In Belgium, an unpleasant incident happened. During the award ceremony, the organizers first played the former Russian anthem – the “Patriotic Song” by Mikhail Glinka. The participants to the ceremony were upset and explained that it was the wrong anthem. It was necessary for the Belgians to look for the new music and carry out the ceremony again.

**Question:** What is the precise reason why the Kuban trampolinists have maintained such domination in your sport for many years?

**Irina Karavaeva:** It is a traditional sport for the city of Krasnodar and the whole region around, and this is where this sport has probably its deepest roots. Our coach **Vitaly Fedorovich Dubko** created the very strong Krasnodar trampoline school already 40 years ago, and before that, he was involved with power tumbling.

**Question:** In synchronized trampoline, you used to compete paired with **Natalia Kolesnikova**. Why have you replaced your partner?

**Irina Karavaeva:** Yes. I started to work with **Natalia Chernova** only this season. We have competed together only twice. The change was an initiative from the Russian Trampoline Federation management. After seeing that we had good individual results, they decided to unite us to form a synchro pair. We had nothing against that, and we immediately worked well together.



**Question:** What do you hope from the current World Cup?

**Irina Karavaeva:** Certainly only a win. In the current World Cup series, we already did four competitions. There are two more to go, but they will be next year.