

Uganda storms to 15 wins

By Julius Kafuluma

Uganda enjoyed a strong start at the 2025 Africa Youth Chess Championship in Harare, Zimbabwe, registering 15 victories from 18 games on the opening day of action over the weekend.

The day's biggest highlight came from the U14 category, where Africa Individual Schools champion Juliet Asaba stunned the home crowd by defeating Zimbabwe's Huwa Romdizo in just five moves, marking the fastest finish of the day. Asaba later fell to South Africa's Ranjith Aishwaryan, who sits 13 places below her in the African U14 rankings.

In the same age group, Daniel Odokonyero opened with a win while Samora Omara battled to a hard-earned draw.

Uganda's only medalist from last year's edition, Talia Atubet, launched her campaign in impressive fashion, securing back-to-back victories against opponents from

Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In the U18 category, Africa Junior silver medalist Sana Omprakash and Edwin Pido maintained perfect starts with two wins each, continuing their fine form.

The U-12 category—Uganda's largest contingent—also delivered strong results. Ronald Wabwire, Apollo Ahumuza, Oyang Sankara, and Suhana Anil all won their opening two matches, while Anabel Kirabo claimed her first victory against Zimbabwe's Talia Kamama.

Elsewhere, despite winning her opener, Dasha Zalwango fell to Carol Ndlovu, while Shoubith Omprakash extended her dominance in the U-16 category with a second straight victory. Sean Mulema and Kirabo added first wins to Uganda's tally as Aaron Kagoda managed a draw in his second match.

In the U-8 category, Psalm Nicole celebrated her second win, while Ernest Kiggundu was held by Zimbabwe's Sumani Leeron.

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Psalm Tamale in action during the Chess championship