



Worthwhile. All the participants and their coaches in one frame (L). Awor, Ayebale and Sydney Wakab loading their bows during Target Titans championship (R). PHOTOS/ABDUL NASSER SSEMUGABI

Gulu ready to shoot to the world

Frontier. Just days after escorting Precious Ayebare to a para-archery training in Rabat, Morocco, Aisha Namukwaya camped in Gulu for two weeks.

BY ABDUL-NASSER SSEMUGABI

RESULTS

10m

1. Samil Semata
2. Rahma Semata
3. Liya Dhara Kirabo

15m

1. Flavia Matwala
2. Griffin Ogenwrot
3. Kimberly Mbambu

30m

1. Richard Ocira
2. Charles Okwonga
3. Khalid Aya

50m

1. Maureen Awor
2. Precious Asimwe
3. Shiloh Ayebare

Shiloh Ayebare, 14, who represented Uganda at the 14th African Archery Championships in Abidjan, last month, was crowned the best archer of the year while Maureen Awor, who won the 50-metre race, was the best shooter at Target Titans Archery Club's End of Year Championship.

Ayebare was honoured for finishing ninth in the individual Recurve U18 men's division in a tournament contested by 141 archers from 16 African countries. But the biggest attraction at

Paradise Gardens Kajjansi was the first appearance of archers from Gulu. The versatile Richard Ocira, who also plays wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby won the 30-metre category, his Gulu teammate Charles Okwonga got silver while Kampala-based Khalid Aya got bronze. "We shall try all sports until we get one that will give us a breakthrough," said Ocira, who also represented Uganda at the 2018 Berlin Marathon in wheelchair racing.

Just days after escorting Precious Ayebare to a para-archery training in Rabat, Morocco, Aisha Namukwaya, the founder of Target Titans, camped in Gulu for two weeks introducing archery to the Gulu people.

Some, like Ocira and Okwonga, were familiar faces she had met at the National Paralympic Gala in Masaka in October. But there were also new faces like Flavia Matwala and Griffin Ogenwrot, who won gold and silver respectively in the 15-metre category in Kajjansi while Kampala-based Kimberly Mbambu got bronze.

"The Gulu people have huge potential, they can even make two teams," Namukwaya said. "And if they have travelled all the way from Gulu, what excuse do you Kampala people have not to train regularly?" Okwonga, like Ocira, plays wheelchair basketball and rugby.

He said Gulu is committed to shooting on the international stage.



New skill. Newcomer Okwonga from Gulu is eager to shoot to world stage.



Bold move. Debutant Liya Dhara Kirabo won bronze in the 10m category.