

OMPRAKASH HONOURED AFTER HIS

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NSUBUGA



Omprakash (seated-left) and Nassanga (seated-right) pose with tennis legend John Oduke

By Michael Nsubuga

Woman International Master (WIM) Sana Omprakash has been honoured with the Fortebet Real Stars Award for December following the outstanding performance that saw her win the first-ever gold medal for Uganda at the Africa Youth Chess Championship held in Zimbabwe.

Omprakash, 18, was recognised for his outstanding performance in the month alongside She Cranes and KCCA Netball Club goal shooter Shadia Nassanga, who starred for the She Cranes as they finished second at the Africa Netball Cup 2025 in Malawi, at the monthly awards ceremony at the Mole-

cule Restaurant in Kololo.

Veteran Ugandan tennis player and coach John Oduke was also recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award, having played at the top level for 32 years before venturing into coaching.

Competing in the fiercely contested U-18 girls' category, Sana outclassed Africa's elite junior players, including Nigeria's top-ranked quick play specialist Deborah Ebimobo, whom she defeated in a pivotal sixth-round encounter. She sealed the title with a composed draw against Lesotho's Ntsieho Bonelo in the final round, completing an unbeaten campaign of seven wins and two draws to finish with eight points from nine

rounds.

"I am really happy for this award, it is the first time I'm winning it, and I thank the sponsors, and I hope this is the first of many to come," Omprakash said.

"It was really great because I have always wanted to get the WIM title, so I'm really happy I was able to do it. I have competed in continental and international events, including the Africa Juniors, where I won a silver medal, and previously represented Uganda at the 45th Olympiad in Hungary. Omprakash now begins her journey to the WGM title, which she knows will come with 'enough practice' alongside other personal goals. She was nominated