

BY GEORGE KATONGOLE

Mukono Schools Super Eight Selected results

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|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Kasawo SS | 0-0 | Kings |
| Vision For Africa | 0-1 | Kings |
| Kings | 2-1 | Dynamic |
| Kings | 2-0 | Latifah |
| Latifah | 1-0 | Vision for Africa |
| Latifah | 1-0 | Kasawo SS |
| Latifah | 2-1 | Dynamic |

KAMPALA. It may have been billed as a friendly pre-season tournament, but Mukono Kings treated it like a final rehearsal for bigger battles ahead.

On Sunday, Kings edged two-time champions Latifah Mixed to lift the Mukono Super 8 trophy, sending a strong statement ahead of the regional qualifiers.

Kings went into the final knowing only victory against Latifah would secure the title, the only title they were missing in their cabin. Anything less would have handed the crown to their rivals. They responded with grit.

After a cagey first half in which Latifah stood firm with a six-man defence, Kings turned up the pressure after the break. Eric Wanyama finally broke the

Kings roar back to claim Mukono Super 8 crown



Congs. Stephen Kitooke, chairperson of the Mukono District Secondary Schools Sports Association, hands the Mukono Super 8 trophy to Mukono Kings captain Sudik Buluma. PHOTO/GEORGE KATONGOLE

deadlock before Emmanuel Lubega sealed the win to hand Kings 10 points — one better than Latifah at the top of the standings.

Head coach Shafiq Mudholo said the triumph was more than silverware.

“These are the teams we are likely to face in the regional play-offs and it’s a good measure of our team. We need to fix a few things in the remaining two weeks and see that we qualify for the nationals,” Mudholo noted.

For Mudholo, the warm-up is over. He is targeting a place among the four teams that will represent Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga and Buvuma districts at the national finals in Lira this May.

Last year, Kings’ journey ended in heartbreak. They were disqualified before the finals in Ngora over registration inconsistencies involving their skipper Sudik Buluma, an issue the school says has since been resolved. Saturday’s victory therefore carried a sense of redemption.

Round-robin

The eight-team tournament, reserved for last year’s regional quarterfinalists, was reduced to five teams after St Joseph’s Naggalama, Mount St Henry’s and one-time national champions St

Julian Seeta failed to turn up. The competition was played in a round-robin format.

Kings opened with a goalless draw against hosts Kasawo SS but recovered impressively to win their remaining matches, including the decisive clash against Latifah.

Latifah coach Tonny Katamba admitted his side is in transition.

“We need reinforcement in goal-keeping and attack as key players have since left us. We have identified the players we need and should finalise before the qualifiers for the nationals begin in March,” Katamba said.

The Mukono Super 8 championship, launched in 2024 with just two schools, Dynamic and Latifah

Mixed, has steadily grown in stature. Latifah won the inaugural edition and retained it last year by beating Kings in the final.

Attention now shifts to the USSSA Elite Games slated for February 26 to March 1 at Janan SS, Bombo, where the top eight schools from last year’s championship will compete.

The National Boys’ Football Finals will then run from May 10 to 20 at Lira Town College in Lira.

2024
LAUNCH