

BY INNOCENT NDAWULA

FORTEBET REAL STARS AWARDS - MAY WINNERS

Netball: Christine Namulumba Kango (Prisons)

Football: Allan Okello (Young Africans SC)

Athletics: Peruth Chemutai

Chess: Alvin Muhirwa

KAMPALA. Awards ceremonies often try to find drama in announcement. This one had none to manufacture. When Christine Namulumba Kango's name surfaced at Nanjing Restaurant on Tuesday, the room did not react like it was hearing something new. It reacted like it was confirming something already understood.

Three Fortebet Real Stars Awards in one career cycle is not coincidence anymore. It is proper structure. Kango did not frame it as arrival or dominance. She framed it as survival through repetition.

"I am very grateful for this other milestone," she said, holding the award without the usual surprise that comes with first-time winners.

"I thank the Commissioner of Prisons, Canon Dr. Johnson Byabashajja, for giving us the chance to represent Uganda. My teammates and coaches have played a big role." Her words moved like routine. Her record does not. This latest recognition follows wins in 2022 and 2023 — a pattern that has quietly separated her

Namulumba breaks pattern as Fortebet Real Stars Awards spread May across four worlds

from the weekly noise of form and fluctuation. More telling is where it came from. In Nairobi, at the East Africa Netball Championship, Prisons did not just dominate as they beat regional queens National Insurance Corporation (NIC) twice on their way to the title.

Towering Kango's consistency was as admirable as the other three winners.

Okello un-ignorable

Football's entry into May came from outside Uganda's borders. Allan Okello's influence at Young Africans SC in Tanzania now no longer reads like adaptation. It reads like ownership of space.

Seven goals in six matches was not a mere burst from the blue but a sign of someone making their mark over time. It pushed Yanga to the top of the league, edging Simba SC in a title race that rarely allows comfort. In the final count, he saw off Uganda U-17 captain Owen Mukisa and SC Villa's Charles Lwanga.

Chemutai returns

On the track in Xiamen, Peruth Chemutai removed doubt that her comeback was still in question.

The Olympic champion's 8:51.06 in the 3000m steeplechase helped her silence the Doubting Thomases. She also buried

the ghosts of her injury memory and recent inconsistency on the track.

Beating world champion Winfred Yavi gave her and her fanbase comfort that good days lie ahead. May was her correction.

Muhirwa thinks

Like many games that require thinking caps, chess rarely rewards noise. It rewards what is built in silence. And Alvin Muhirwa's African Junior Championship gold (U-16) fits that logic perfectly — no spectacle, just accumulation of correct decisions.

He outlasted Jacinta Mbabazi and Ronald Wabwire, but more importantly, he extended a trajectory that is starting to look less like emergence and more like arrival.

The 'Ghetto Boy' from Kamwokya to continental podiums has been slow but irreversible.

The May Fortebet Real Stars Monthly Awards, organised by Real Stars Sports Agency led by CEO Isaac Mukasa and supported by Fortebet and Jude Colour Solutions are continuing to steadily stand the test of time.

They're also inspiring many more athletes and June is destined to produce more.



SHARED GREATNESS

Different Paths. Namulumba Kango's greatness lies in consistency, Okello's in influence, Chemutai's in resilience and Muhirwa's in quiet progression. Their journeys could not be more different, but they arrive at the same place. May's Real Stars prove there is no single blueprint for true sporting excellence.