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Edition 011 - Monday May 5, 2025

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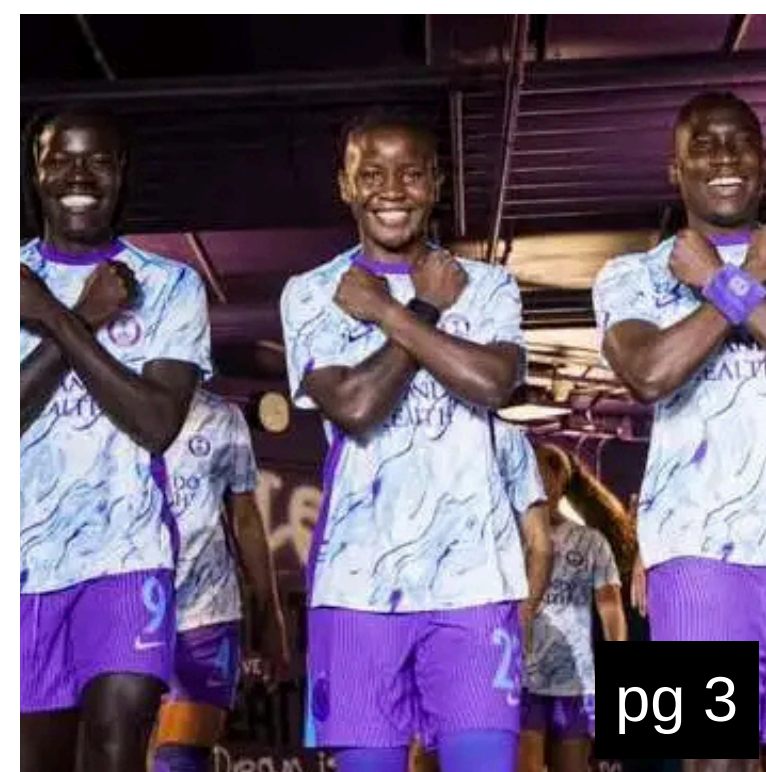
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ZESCO NDOLA GIRLS CROWNED 2024/2025 EDEN UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S SUPER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

By Joseph Tembo



KALUMBILA – ZESCO Ndola Girls were officially crowned champions of the 2024/2025 Eden University Women’s Super League on Sunday afternoon, capping off a dominant and unbeaten season with a 3-1 victory over Trident Queens at Sentinel Ground in Kalumbila.

The Ndola-based side secured the title in style, with Thandiwe Ndhlovu opening the scoring for the visitors. Hosea Sebete responded almost immediately for Trident Queens to level the match, but a stunning long-range strike from Eneless Phiri restored ZESCO’s lead before captain Avell Chitundu sealed the win.

The victory marked the end of Green Buffaloes’ four-year reign at the top, as ZESCO Ndola Girls wrapped up the campaign with 31 wins and three draws from 34 matches, going the entire season undefeated.

After the final whistle, stand-in captain Chitundu hoisted the trophy

aloft, leading the jubilant “Zegalicious Girls” in celebration of their historic achievement.

Meanwhile, star forward Penelope Mulubwa narrowly missed out on breaking Grace Chanda’s longstanding record of 35 goals in a single season, set in 2021. Although Mulubwa was not on the scoresheet against Trident Queens, she still equaled the record and finished the season as the league’s top scorer.

In other league action, Green Buffaloes finished second after a convincing 4-1 win over ZANACO Ladies. Margaret Gondwe, Beatrice Fwamba, and Memory Nthala found the back of the net for the army-sponsored outfit, while Regina Chanda scored ZANACO’s consolation goal from the penalty spot before Agnes Phiri added a fourth for Buffaloes.

Elsewhere, Nchanga Rangers Queens edged Choma Warriors 1-0 thanks to a lone strike from Lungowe Namasiku. Indeni were in

fine form with a 4-1 demolition of ZISD, while YASA Queens defeated Play It Forward 2-0 courtesy of goals from Christine Nyirongo and Margaret Chisenga.

Kamfisa Police Blue Eagles cruised to a 4-0 win over Nkana Queens, with Zambia U17 captain Mercy Chipasula among the scorers. Nkwazi Queens ensured survival with a 2-1 victory over Elite Ladies, while Red Arrows edged Green Eagles 1-0.

At Shamuel Ground, Luyando Foundation Girls sent Police Dove Queens down to National Division One with a 1-0 win, secured by a Regina Kayamboma penalty.

The 2024/2025 season will be remembered for ZESCO Ndola Girls’ invincible run and a competitive title race that ended with a changing of the guard in Zambian women’s football.

KALENGO OPTIMISTIC AS TRIDENT FC EYES SUPER LEAGUE PROMOTION IN NAIL-BITING FINALE

By Lucky Chama



Trident Football Club striker Maybin Kalengo has expressed unwavering confidence in his team’s chances of securing promotion to the coveted MTN Super League from the ZPL National League, as the season reaches its dramatic climax. With the promotion race going down to the wire, Trident FC finds itself in a thrilling three-way battle alongside River Plate and Prison Leopards, each vying for a coveted spot in the top tier of Zambian football.

Trident FC currently sits fourth, atop the promotion contenders with 54 points, closely followed by River Plate and Prison Leopards, both locked on 53 points. The final matches of the season will be decisive, with each of the three teams needing a victory to guarantee their ascent to the Super League.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, the experienced striker Maybin Kalengo articulated the significance of this moment for Trident FC.

“Being in a position to qualify for the Super League would be a thrilling opportunity, signifying significant success and a potential step into a higher tier of competition,” Kalengo stated.

“It would be a testament to hard work, dedication, and possibly strategic planning in the field. The possibility of playing at a higher

level, facing tougher competition, and potentially experiencing greater exposure could be incredibly motivating for everyone involved.”

As the crucial final match looms large, Kalengo provided insights into the team’s current mindset.

“The team’s mood ahead of the final match is generally positive and focused,” he revealed.

“There’s a sense of anticipation and determination, with players and coaches eager to capitalize on their hard work and achieve victory. While there may be individual feelings of nervousness or pressure, the overall team spirit remains strong. We know what’s at stake, and we are prepared to give our absolute best.”

Kalengo also offered a broader perspective on the implications of promotion to the Super League.

“The importance of returning to the Super League depends on your perspective,” he explained.

“From a club’s perspective, it offers a chance to compete at the highest level and potentially increase revenue, attracting more fans and sponsorship opportunities. For our loyal supporters, it could mean more high-profile games and the chance to see their team compete against the best clubs in the country.”

FAZ MOURNS EX-POWER COACH MUTOBO

FAZ



The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) joins the rest of the football family in mourning former Power Dynamics coach Gaston Mutobo.

Mr. Mutobo, who led Power Dynamics to the 2000 FAZ Super League title died on Sunday morning at Progress Hospital in Kitwe with the funeral being held in Nkana East.

FAZ president Andrew Kamanga says the demise of Mr Mutobo was a great loss to the football community that had benefitted a lot from the deceased.

“On my behalf of the football family and myself, I wish to convey my condolences to the Mutobo family on the passing of this football servant. His service to the game left an indelible footprint with league victory in 2000 at Power Dynamics,” Kamanga says. “In a way he may have died a fulfilled man having passed on at a time his beloved club lifted their latest league title.”

Mutobo’s coaching journey saw him ply his trade in Botswana for clubs like Botswana Defence Forces (BDF), NICO United and Tatic.

The funeral for the deceased is being held at 40 Kalungwishi Street, Nkana East.

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ZAMBIAN TRIO FEATURE IN ORLANDO PRIDE’S PAINFUL LOSS TO PORTLAND THORNS IN NWSL CLASH

By Joseph Tembo



Defending NWSL champions Orlando Pride suffered their first defeat of the 2025 season this morning, falling 1-0 to the Portland Thorns in a tightly contested fixture at Providence Park. The match featured a strong Zambian presence, with all three Copper Queens stars Barbra Banda, Prisca Chilufya, and Grace Chanda making appearances.

The game’s only goal came in the 13th minute, when Portland’s Morgan Weaver capitalized on a headed assist from Reyna Reyes to give the Thorns an early lead. Despite increased pressure in the

second half, Orlando were unable to find an equalizer, as Portland’s defense held firm and goalkeeper Shelby Hogan delivered a composed performance to earn the clean sheet.

Barbra Banda, leading the line for Orlando, played the full 90 minutes, constantly looking to break through the Thorns’ defense with her pace and physicality. Prisca Chilufya entered the match in the 75th minute and added fresh energy to the attack, while Grace Chanda was introduced in the 83rd minute, playing the final 17 minutes including stoppage time and linking up well in midfield.

The match was a painful setback for Orlando, but for Zambian fans, it was a proud moment to see all three national team players earning minutes in a top-tier match. With the 2024 Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) on the horizon, the appearances signal good news for the Copper Queens’ preparations.

Despite the result, Zambia’s top footballing exports continue to grow their presence on the international stage, drawing attention ahead of what promises to be a critical WAFCON campaign.

TIGHTLY CONTESTED MOROCCO NIGERIA DUEL ENDS GOALLESS

CAF



Morocco and Nigeria’s Under-20 sides played an evenly balanced goalless stalemate in a tightly contested Group C encounter at the 30 June Air Defence Stadium on Sunday, in what proved to be a physical and tactical battle during the TotalEnergies CAF U-20 Africa Cup of Nations.

Despite both teams showing moments of attacking promise, neither side was able to break the deadlock across the 90 minutes. The fixture, officiated by Ugandan referee Shamirah Nabadda, was marked by a flurry of fouls, stoppages, and missed opportunities.

Morocco came closest to finding the back of the net in the second half, with Fouad Zahouani and Ayman Arguigue both squandering headed chances from inside the six-yard box. Nigeria responded with efforts of their own, including a long-range strike from Israel Ayuma and a header from Emmanuel Chukwu, both of which failed to trouble the Moroccan goalkeeper.

Substitutions and injuries interrupted the flow throughout the game, with players from both sides needing treatment late in the second half. Morocco’s Hossam Essadak and Nigeria’s Divine Oliseh were among

those who left the pitch limping.

With the result, both nations will have to wait a little longer to secure a place in the knockout stages, with their final group matches set to be decisive.

It was a clash full of grit, but in the end, neither Morocco nor Nigeria could find the killer touch in front of goal.

Up next for Morocco will be a North African duel against Tunisia on Wednesday, with a simultaneous fixture seeing Nigeria taking on Kenya.

TUNISIA ROAR BACK TO DEFEAT KENYA 3-1 IN PIVOTAL U-20 AFCON CLASH

By Joseph Tembo



CAIRO, Egypt — Tunisia kept their hopes of advancing at the 2025 TotalEnergies CAF U-20 Africa Cup of Nations alive with a hard-fought 3-1 comeback win over Kenya in a thrilling Group B clash on Sunday at the 30 June Air Defence Stadium.

In a match that featured VAR drama, lengthy first-half stoppages, and moments of individual brilliance, the Carthage Eagles turned around a first-half deficit to secure their first points of the tournament and leave Kenya on the brink of elimination.

Kenya made a bright start and deservedly took the lead in the 38th minute when striker Lawrence Ouma tapped in from close range after excellent work down the flank by Hassan Beja. The Rising Stars, who had narrowly lost 3-2 to Morocco in their opener, looked poised to claim their first victory.

However, Tunisia fought back late in the half. A VAR review awarded them a penalty after a handball by Kenyan defender Baron Ochieng. Farès Bousnina stepped up and converted confidently in the 45+16th minute, deep into the eighteen minutes of added time, caused by a string of injury stoppages.

That goal shifted the momentum, and Tunisia returned from the break the stronger side. Despite some promising Kenyan spells early in the second half, defensive lapses proved costly once again. Substitute Omar Ben Ali put Tunisia ahead in the 70th

minute, capitalizing on a poor clearance to make it 2-1.

With just five minutes remaining, fellow substitute Alaeddine Derbali sealed the win with a stunning strike from the right wing that flew past Wycliford Oduor in the Kenyan goal, capping a polished second-half performance from the North Africans.

The result ended Tunisia’s four-match winless run at the U-20 finals and gave them a vital three points heading into a North African derby against Morocco in their final group match.

Meanwhile, Kenya remain bottom of Group B with zero points from two games. Their hopes of progressing to the quarter-finals, and earning a coveted spot at the 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Chile, now depend on a complex set of outcomes. They will need Nigeria to beat Morocco in Sunday’s late game and then defeat the Flying Eagles themselves on Wednesday.

According to tournament rules, the top two teams in each group, plus the two best third-placed finishers, advance to the quarter-finals. The four semi-finalists will qualify for the FIFA U-20 World Cup set to take place from September 27 to October 19.

For now, Tunisia breathe new life into their campaign, while Kenya’s Rising Stars are left hoping for a miracle.

BIG WIN

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TEAM ZAMBIA READY TO RUMBLE AT IMMAF AFRICA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ANGOLA

By Lucky Chama



The rumble is about to begin in Luanda, Angola, as the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) African Championships kick off today, May 4th, and will run until May 10th. Excitement is palpable in Zambia as a contingent of determined athletes, under the banner of Team MMA Zambia, have officially touched down in Angola, ready to showcase their skills and fighting spirit on the continental stage.

The journey to the championships was confirmed by Benjamin Bush, the esteemed coach and president of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Zambia. His enthusiastic announcement heralded the team’s departure and the successful completion of their registration for the prestigious tournament.

“Team Zambia is Angola-bound!” Bush declared with pride.

“We’re proud to announce that Team MMA Zambia has officially departed for Angola, and their

registration for the IMMAF – International Mixed Martial Arts Federation Africa Championships has been successfully completed.”

Bush also extended a note of gratitude to the host nation’s federation.

“A big thank you to FAMMA-Federação Angolana de Artes Marciais Mistas.”

While the initial ambition was to send a full squad of 25 athletes, logistical challenges meant a smaller, but no less determined, team has made the trip.

Representing Zambia with unwavering dedication and fierce resolve are the following warriors: Miracle Chipito, Tryford Mwanga, Kilian Lungu, Jarcel Chimbwe, Mutinta Mweene, and Nathan Mufwaya.

Bush expressed confidence in the team’s ability to make a significant impact.

“These warriors are ready to make their mark and carry the Zambian flag high. We’re ready to do business — let’s go, Zambia! Unfortunately, the full team of 25 were unable to travel, but we assure everyone we mean business and will represent them well.”

The commitment of these athletes to represent their nation on such a prominent platform is commendable, and their dedication to the sport is a testament to the growing MMA scene in Zambia.

The journey to Luanda would not have been possible without the generous support of key sponsors such as Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts through the Minister Elvis Nkandu and Viva Med Hospital, who have recognized the potential and dedication of Team MMA Zambia.

Their contribution has been instrumental in enabling these talented Zambian athletes to compete at the highest level in Africa.

ZAMBIA’S “SNIPER” TO FACE GHANA’S NELSON FOR WBC INTERNATIONAL BANTAMWEIGHT TITLE

By Chris Malunga



History is about to repeat itself — in style.

Zambia’s very own David “Sniper” Mwale, the reigning African Boxing Union (ABU) Bantamweight Champion, is set to take on Ghana’s Michael Decardi Nelson for the prestigious World Boxing Council (WBC) International Bantamweight Title.

The much-anticipated title clash will be held at Government Complex in Lusaka, Zambia, marking a historic moment for Zambian boxing. The last time Zambia hosted a WBC international male bout was on 02 December 1990, a legendary night that featured the late Lottie Mwale — one of the country’s greatest boxing icons.

Exactly 35 years later, another Mwale is stepping into the ring to make history. David “Sniper” Mwale carries not only his nation’s hopes, but also the proud legacy of Zambian boxing on his shoulders.

Zambia, get ready — the ring will roar again.

ZAMBIA’S U18 AND U20 WOMEN’S HANDBALL TEAMS TRIUMPH AT 2025 IHF TROPHY ZONE VI CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Joseph Tembo



Harare, Zimbabwe — Zambia’s Under-18 and Under-20 women’s handball teams have emerged victorious at the 2025 IHF Trophy Zone VI Championships, held in Harare from April 28 to May 4. Their impressive performances secured them gold medals in both categories and qualification for the Africa Cup of Nations in Algiers, Algeria, scheduled for September 2025.

The tournament featured nine Southern African nations: Mozambique, Malawi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and host Zimbabwe. Zambia’s teams demonstrated exceptional skill and determination throughout the competition.

In the U18 category, Zambia clinched the title with a commanding 37–26 victory over Zimbabwe in the final

match. The U20 team also showcased their prowess, securing a 35–31 win against Zimbabwe to claim the championship.

These victories not only highlight the strength and depth of Zambia’s youth handball programs but also pave the way for the teams to compete at a continental level later this year. The upcoming Africa Cup of Nations will provide an opportunity for these young athletes to test their mettle against the continent’s best and further elevate Zambia’s status in the sport.

The success of the Zambian teams at the Zone VI Championships underscores the importance of continued investment in youth sports development and the potential for future achievements on the international stage.

