

# Pirates' chance to halt Kobs run

## National Guinness 7s

Pool A:	Kobs, Jinja Hippos, Rams, Rams II
Pool B:	Heathens, Mongers, Rhinos, Entebbe Jaguars
Pool C:	Black Pirates, Warriors, Sailors, Kisubi Pacers
Pool D:	Buffaloes, Stallions, Impis, Eagles.

### BY DEUS BUGEMBE

**KAMPALA.** Stanbic Black Pirates host the fourth of six circuits in the National Guinness 7s Series, the Henry Rujumba 7s, today at their Kings Park, Bweyogerere home.

They are yet to win a circuit and another slip could hand rivals Betway

Kobs the title.

Kobs have won bragging rights in Gulu, Soroti and the Mileke 7s to build an 11 point lead with 66 points.

Another win today makes them champions at Kings Park, something the Pirates corner cannot fathom.

The hosts want to win their home tournament, honour Henry Rujumba with silverware and keep Kobs waiting.

"We have been honest with each other and worked on what had to be fixed, we have come close before and feel we can win this one at our home," Pirates captain Ivan Magomu told *SCORE* after Tuesday's session at Kings Park.

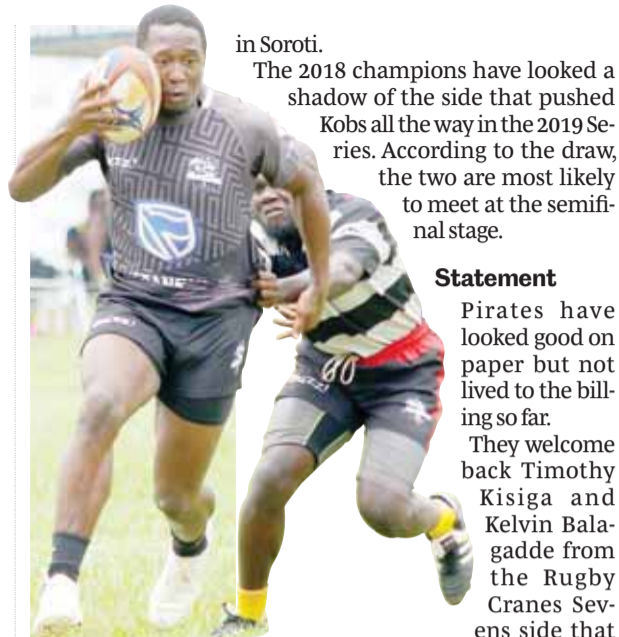
The Sea Robbers lost 22-17 to Kobs on Day One, lost 3-0 to Kobs in the Gulu final and could only manage a semifinal

## Standings

Kobs	66
Pirates	55
Heathens	53
Buffaloes	45
Hippos	39
Impis	34
Warriors	32
Mongers	28
Rams	23
Sailors	7

**D-Day.** Desire Ayera (L) and Pirates host Kobs today.

PHOTO/JOHN BATANUDE



in Soroti.

The 2018 champions have looked a shadow of the side that pushed Kobs all the way in the 2019 Series. According to the draw, the two are most likely to meet at the semifinal stage.

### Statement

Pirates have looked good on paper but not lived to the billing so far.

They welcome back Timothy Kisiga and Kelvin Bala-gadde from the Rugby Cranes Sevens side that

finished fifth at last weekend's Safari 7s in Nairobi.

The rest of the side has had some rest to make a statement today.

Coach Bobby Musinguzi will closely follow proceedings on the touchline with winning the day on his mind.

Kobs have not shied away from making it clearer they prefer clinching the title as soon as possible.

Four wins on the bounce would sum it up for the side which retains the services of Karim Arinaitwe, Adrian Kasito and Ian Munyami who captained Uganda at the Safari 7s.

Pool D has Eagles rugby club play in their first official competition since inception.

Heathens in third with 53 points will want to go step ahead having lost the Soroti final 14-0 to Kobs.

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# Uganda the team to beat in Africa woodball championship

### BY GEORGE KATONGOLE

**U**ganda woodball continues to dominate the African continent. After arriving in Nairobi, Kenya, for the second edition of Africa Woodball Championships that started on Thursday at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), the eight-man team issued a statement of intent.

Since the last African event to be held in 2019 which Uganda won at the United States International University in Nairobi by dominating the field, Uganda has topped the major events such as the Inter-university Games.

Uganda is ranked top in African woodball and continues their best form into the five-day tournament that ends on Sunday.

"It is a great feeling because we happen to be the kings of woodball. Everyone who has come to this competition wants to beat Uganda," Thomas Keddi, a senior member of the Uganda national woodball team, said after the team practice on Wednesday evening.

### Confidence high

Coming off its most disruptive season punctuated with the Covid-19 lockdown, Uganda's explosive players hope to dominate the podium.

"Confidence is high in our camp," said Joan Mukooya, whose target is to win her first gold medal since making the national team debut in 2014.

"We have to dominate this championship because we have a strong team," she adds.

Teammate Joyce Nalubega's only concern was the ground which she said was not favourable.

"But the coaches always teach us to learn how to adjust and we shall manage it to our advantage," Nalubega says.

Florence Mukooya of Makerere University Business School (MUBS), who is probably one of the most in-form players, says the team has momentum and that they just have to keep going.

"Personally, I want to perform to the best of my ability," Mukooya said.

The other side of the battle will be hosts



**Perfection.** Mukooya during practice last week. PHOTOS/GEORGE KATONGOLE

Kenya, who are ready for a great challenge.

"Kenya is a real threat. They have strong players, so I think it is going to be a great challenge for our players," Onesmus Atamba, the most capped player, said.

### State dinner

Keddi, who is among the most decorated players on the team, said that the sharp preparations give the team an edge.

"We have focused on the little things and we believe in ourselves," he said.

But Keddi believes their success needs to be recognised with a State dinner accorded to excelling athletes.

"I think it [the State dinner] is much needed. The players always work hard, they are always putting in effort. A state dinner will give them a breath of fresh air to keep them engaged and hungry for more," Keddi said.

Action ends Sunday with seven clubs representing Uganda in the fifth edition of the Kenya Open.

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### Who is who on Team Uganda?

**Name:** Onesmus Atamba  
**Born:** March 26, 1985  
**Club:** Ndejje Corporates  
**Debut:** 2010 World Cup, Thailand  
**Occupation:** Administrator  
**Major wins:** Gold at 2017 World Cup in Indonesia

**Club:** Eminent  
**Debut:** 2010 W. Cup in Munyonyo  
**Occupation:** Credit Officer  
**Major wins:** Gold at 2017 Uganda International at Kisubi



**Name:** Christine Birungi  
**Born:** Aug 19, 1998  
**Club:** Ndejje University  
**Debut:** 2021 Africa Championship  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Major wins:** Gold at 2021 Uganda Open at UCU

**Name:** Thomas Keddi  
**Born:** Dec 17, 1994  
**Club:** Stroke  
**Debut:** 2019 W. Cup in Entebbe  
**Occupation:** Psychologist  
**Major wins:** Gold at 2019 Africa Championship



**Name:** Ronald Mulindwa  
**Born:** April 6, 1994  
**Club:** MUBS  
**Debut:** 2021 Africa Championships  
**Occupation:** IT Expert  
**Major wins:** Gold at 2021 Uganda Open at UCU

**Name:** Joyce Nalubega  
**Born:** Nov 29, 1992  
**Club:** Eminent  
**Debut:** 2017 Beach W. Cup in Indonesia  
**Occupation:** Accountant  
**Major wins:** Bronze at 2017 Beach W. Cup



**Name:** Florence Mukooya  
**Born:** Jan 10, 1995  
**Club:** MUBS  
**Debut:** 2018 W. Cup in Thailand  
**Occupation:** Banker  
**Major wins:** 2019 Uganda Int'l Open gold



**Name:** Joan Mukooya  
**Born:** Oct 9, 1998  
**Club:** Eminent  
**Debut:** 2014 W. Cup in China  
**Occupation:** Electrical Engineer  
**Major wins:** Silver in mixed doubles in 2014, China

**Name:** Israel Mwanguzi  
**Born:** April 2, 1989

# KAVC look to bounce back against KCCA

## National V-Ball League

UGANDA		
Sport-S	vs. Ndejje	9am
KCCA	vs. KAVC	11am

### BY EMANZI NDYAMUHAKI

**KAMPALA.** KAVC have already fallen this season but remain confident things will fall into place as the season unfolds.

Their 3-0 loss against Orange Block Busters on the opening day of the season gave head coach Daniel Okwee positives and some corrections to make going forward.

"We've to convert leads into sets," Okwee told *SCORE* ahead of today's clash with KCCA at Sport-S grounds in Nsambya.

Against OBB, KAVC lost leads in the second and third set and ended up losing in straight sets.

Ivan Ongom and Kelvin Kiplagat made light work of the KAVC net defence to expose weaknesses in the side.

"We have worked on our defence, especially on the net which was a big problem in the first game," Okwee said.

"Mentally, we will continue to grow as a team because we have many young players in the side."

### Duo to up the ante

The side expects to have the services of first setter Martin Kalema and Nicholas Dheyongera. The two add experience to a predominantly young side that had to count on mainly Allan Ejiet and Mark Omara for offence in the opener.

KCCA, on the other hand, will be in high spirits after landing Volleyball Cranes tactician Shilla Omuriwe this week.

Omuriwe joins KCCA from Airforce and her first task is to take points off a team with which she won her only top flight title as head coach in 2014.

She replaces Johnson Kawenyera, who was fired after what management considered as below par performance in the National Clubs Championship last month in Kabale.

Gideon Angiro remains KCCA's strongest weapon on offense and will pose questions to the porous KAVC net defence.

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