

July 20

But turned their fortunes around against all odds on Sunday as a solitary goal from their top scorer Melissa Namuleme ensured a 1-0 win over local side St. Joseph School - Kitale in the ladies' finals. Maseno Open can be abrasive. There are no rules for engagement



KHC Swans receive the Maseno Hockey Open trophy on Sunday. PHOTO BY M. MUZIRANSA

and local teams are allowed to reinforce their squads, especially with players from sides that have been knocked out.

Swans, who won two of three pool

games, had to do so with 13 players in their third appearance in Maseno. Jackie Okumu had to play in the finals with a stitched face after sustaining a cut in the semis. KHC had lost to St

lios and Weatherhead U-19 were dumped out in the quarter finals to St Anthony School and the second round (last 16) respectively.

Leading 1-0 with four minutes to play, Stallions' poor scoring form came back to bite as an umpire called a goal for a ball that seemed to have gone wide from a St Anthony School short corner.

The decision left the Ugandan side dejected and St Anthony pounced less than a minute later to score the second.

allegedly using abusive language. Daily Monitor has learnt that the club executive is going to contest the red card decision.

BY DEUS BUGEMBE
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KAMPALA. BetWay Kobs handed Black Pirates their first loss of the season at Legends RFC in a game that was marred by scuffles and mediocre officiating.

The build-up to the game hinted that Pirates had a chance to beat Kobs, for the first time since 2010 considering their early season form. And true to form, Pirates enjoyed a perfect start when Isiah Magomu swung a long ball to Baron Kasozi for a try that sent nerves through Kobs' spines.

With Pirates piling all the pressure, Kobs were living on the edge when Conrad Wanyama extended the lead to 8-0 with a penalty. But when it seemed like Arinze Kinene's boy would carry them, they instead shot themselves in the foot with indiscipline at the scrum; something that helped creep back into the game with James Ijongat penalties.

"The game was hard and why we opted to build a lead by going for points every time with a penalty," said James Ijongat.

With Kobs back in the things could not get any better when referee Dennis Etuket 'dubiously' sent off Ijongat for allegedly using abusive language. That avoided a further ban from the man in the white shirt in the genesis of a series of events.

Kobs hooker Cyrus also sent off for launching a punch at Haruna Mohammed. Ijongat himself was lucky to land on the pitch.

"It was sad," said Dennis Etuket. "In the end, both sides took the game to our favour. But as referees, we cannot condone any form of indiscipline and the culprits were sent off internally."

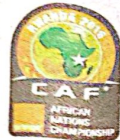
"We shall regroup and prepare for the next league as it is still in time to put our best foot forward."

Pirates noted that they will not let their manager's red card have been more of a setback.

WEEKEND

Kobs
Mongers
Rhinos
Gulu
Impis

Congolese tactician Ibenge praises sparkling Meschak



With Andrew Mwanguhya

BY ANDREW MWANGUHYA
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He came, he saw, he conquered. If you still have doubts, get yourself a replay of the 2016 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) final between eventual champions DR Congo and Mali.

Elia Meschak is the name. He plays his club football at Don Bosco back home, but for the last three weeks, he has been in Rwanda both entertaining and exhilarating.

With the game goalless and Rwandan President Paul Kagame watching on as the rain came down on the players at Amahoro on Sunday, Meschak, received the ball and made a run at Mali's right back.

In an instant the Eagles' defender had lost Meschak, who had long turned and curled in a beautiful ball to the top left corner of Djigui Diarra for DR Congo's 28th minute lead.

"He has the qualities of a modern footballer and looking back at his first goal, it was an amazing goal," said his national team coach, Florent Ibenge.

Meschak made it 2-0 after recess, running at and beating two Malian



Meschak (L) beat two Malian defenders before dancing past a helpless Diarra in goal to make it 2-0 for DR Congo. PHOTO BY BACKPAGEPIX

defenders before faking the goalkeeper and stroking home into an empty net to finish the tournament joint top-scorer with two others on four goals.

The winger, who took full responsibility since their talisman Héritier Luvumbu got injured in the quarter-finals, was also involved in the third.

It was resoundingly thumped home by Jonathan Bolingi for his third of the competition. "He (Meschak) is only about 20 years, very young. He has many qualities - speed, dribbles and, most of all, he listens," added Ibenge, who coaches AS Vita back home. "He comes to me sometimes and asks for advice. I found him in

Don Bosco, nobody knew about him and people were surprised here but I wasn't. He has proved something in this competition. I think slowly he is going to impress more." By the end of the 3-0 final victory, scouts were already prodding on Twitter and asking about the boy, the boy wearing shirt number 5.