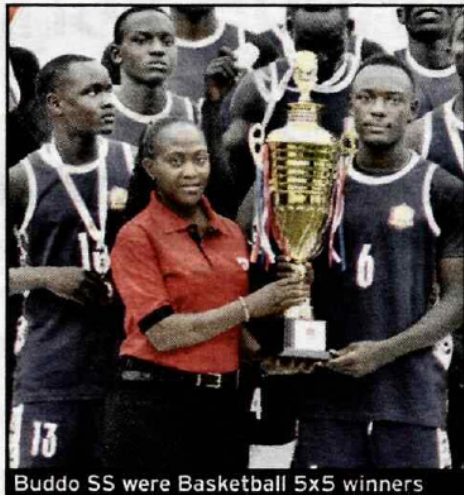


SCHOOLS SHINE AT ELITE GAMES

PHOTOS BY GABRIEL ESIKU



Buddo SS were Basketball 5x5 winners



Bukedea comprehensive won boys football

By Gabriel Esiku

Commissioner for Physical Education and Sports Duncan Mugumya has hailed schools for prioritising talent development as the seventh edition of the Elite Games concluded on Sunday at Janan Secondary School in Luwero district.

Presiding over the colourful closing ceremony, Mugumya applauded the level of competition and discipline exhibited throughout the championship, which brought together the country's finest secondary school athletes.

"I want to appreciate you for preparing these athletes as I have enjoyed the display by these schools," Mugumya said, commending teachers and coaches for their commitment to nurturing young talent.

The annual competition, organised by the Uganda

Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA), once again demonstrated its value as a key preparatory platform ahead of district, regional, national and international engagements.

USSSA President Justus Mugisha underscored the tournament's strategic role in maintaining Uganda's dominance in regional school competitions.

"We have so far won the FEASSA overall trophy five times in a row, and the Elite Games is among the tricks we use to conquer East Africa. Elite Games give our athletes enough leg work while our neighbors are sleeping," Mugisha emphasized.

Across various disciplines, schools delivered impressive performances. Seroma Christian School collected one gold, one silver and four bronze medals, while Buddo SS secured two gold and one silver.

St Mary's Kitende excelled in basketball and netball, adding to their growing reputation.

In football, Bukedea Comprehensive School etched their name in history by winning boys' gold after defeating Mentor SS in the final, with Uganda Martyrs High School Lubaga taking bronze. It marked Bukedea's first-ever Elite Games football title.

Managing Director Jonas Gumisiriza praised his team's discipline, highlighting goalkeeper Andrew Okori's decisive penalty saves. Mentor SS games teacher Ronald Okello remained optimistic despite defeat.

The five-day event attracted over 1,000 participants, with Airtel Uganda serving as the major sponsor. USSSA Second vice president Okot P. Bitek commended Airtel's continued support in strengthening school sports development nationwide.