

JURUNI DEMANDS RESPONSE

By **Chrispus Baluku**

**FIBA 2027 World Cup
African Qualifiers
Group D (Window Two)**
Angola 90 Uganda 68
Saturday, 9pm
Uganda v Mali

Uganda Silverbacks first assistant coach Mandy Juruni has demanded a swift reaction from his players after a heavy 90-68 defeat to Angola national basketball team in their Group D opener of the FIBA Basketball World Cup African Qualifiers Window Two on Thursday.

Juruni admitted Uganda expected a physical contest but said avoidable errors ultimately cost them the game.

"We knew it would be tough and physical. There are areas we must clean up, especially offensive rebounds and taking better care of the ball," he said.

At the Borg Elarab Arena in Alexandria, Egypt, Uganda found the reigning African champions too strong and composed. Angola controlled three quarters and punished Uganda's mistakes to seal a comfortable 22-point victory.

Turnovers proved decisive, with Uganda committing 35, leading to 40 Angola points. The Palancas Negras opened with a 17-0 run before Fayed Baale hit a three-pointer to end the drought. Angola led 27-13 after the first quarter.

Uganda improved slightly in the second period, moving the ball better and creating clearer chances. Nike Sibande lifted spirits with a powerful dunk and a floater, but the Silverbacks still trailed by 18 at halftime.

Angola's disciplined defense stretched the lead to 27 points entering the

final quarter. Uganda rallied with a 10-0 run to cut the deficit to 75-60 with 6:44 left, forcing a timeout. However, Angola responded strongly, adding 15 more points before Peter Obleng's late three.

Juruni noted positives despite the loss, highlighting defensive effort and rebounding but lamenting poor shot selection and lack of offensive flow.

Selton Miguel led Angola with 19 points, while Childe Dundao added 15 points, nine assists and 10 steals. Kevin Kokila scored 13.

For Uganda, Deng Geu registered 17 points and 12 rebounds. Sibande impressed with 15 points on debut.

Uganda next face Mali national basketball team in a must-win clash. Mali will rely on towering center Oumar Ballo, a dominant force in the paint.