

Mengo City complete double in Futsal Cup

BY GEORGE KATONGOLE

KAMPALA. Mengo City stole the show at Old Kampala Futsal Arena on Friday night, completing a historic double by claiming both the men's and women's Futsal Uganda Cup titles. The men edged QC Mbarara 6-3 to defend their crown, while the Lady Stormers stormed past Entebbe Cheetahs 6-2 to become the first-ever champions of the Women's Cup. Mengo City struck early in the men's final with Samuel Omara giving the champions the lead in the ninth minute and doubling it four minutes later to make it 2-0. QC Mbarara responded in the 18th minute when Shafiq Mulan-

gira pulled one back, leaving the score 2-1 at halftime after 20-minute halves. The second half exploded with action. Within a minute of the restart, Eria "Hitman" Kabagambe levelled the match at 2-2, but Mengo goalkeeper Geoffrey Atuhairwe immediately produced a moment of magic to restore the lead, 3-2 in the 22nd minute. Sharif Opuuli scored from a tight angle in the 23rd minute and added his second just four minutes later to make it 5-2. Captain Anthony Male extended the lead in the 31st minute to 6-2 before Daniel Ebedu pulled a late consolation for Mbarara in the 34th minute. Mengo City held on to defend their Futsal Uganda Cup, marking back-to-back success in the men's competition.

Lady Stormers make history. The inaugural Futsal Women Uganda Cup final was equally dramatic. The match began as a tactical opening session in the 34th minute to put Mengo ahead 4-2. Nakitto added her second a minute later to make it 5-2 and Shanitah Nakato capped the scoring in the 37th minute, completing the 6-2 triumph. From trailing midway through the second half, Mengo City's Lady Stormers staged a devastating comeback to become the first-ever Futsal Women Uganda Cup champions. "This season is a milestone for women's futsal," said Futsal Association of Uganda chairman Hamza Jjunju. "Seeing how teams played in this inaugural edition shows the game's potential."

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Setting the standard

Mengo's double triumph underlines their position as the benchmark of Futsal in Uganda especially after winning the league and Cup last season. "Mengo City always aims high. Winning both cups this weekend is huge. Our men are top of the league, and we want to keep this momentum," said CEO Karim Lakhani. Action now turns to the league this weekend.



Mengo City captains Anthony Mule and Angel Nakitto pose. PHOTO/GEORGE KATONGOLE