of the fastest and most skilled absent at the send-off, Nasser gravel.

UGANDA READY TO DEFEND CROWN

By Michael Nsubuga

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NSUBUGA



The national golf team poses ahead of their clash with Kenya

The Uganda national golf team is hoping to replicate last year's performance at the Mt. Kipipiri Golf Resort in Naivasha, where they beat Kenya to win their second Victoria Cup, at this year's edition presented by NCBA Bank at Entebbe Club, March 5-7.

Uganda beat Kenya by three and a half points (14.5-11.5) to win the event for the second time since their last victory in Kampala in 2019. The Ugandans, who trail in the two-nation series 5-2, now have an opportunity tō do it again on home soil, with both the coach and team captain exuding confidence ahead of today's action at the par-71 Entebbe course.

Lieutenant Flavia Namakula, the National Team coach, said the team is ready for the match-play competition, with all pairings now sharpened for the job. "We have gone through all the pairings, and we have a team of young guys who are really hungry for success. I am sure, and I trust them, and I believe that we are going to defend our title," Namakula said.

"We have already gone through all the possible scenarios of the match play format. And I believe that we are strong enough to defend the title. There is a lot of pressure being a first-time captain, but I'm ready for the experience," team captain John Musiimenta added.

Apart from Joseph Cwinyaai, Titus Okwong, and Anthony Otukei, who are not on the team, Namakula has maintained last year's squad, a mix of young blood and experience for the job. Andrew Ssekibejja, Amon Bwambale, and Godfrey Kambale are the new faces on the team from last year. The rest are Abdallah Kakooza, Joseph Reagan Akena, Abdu Kakeeto, Elton Thembo, Joseph Kasozi, and Peter Mayende. Kenya has fielded John Lejirmah (captain), Elvis Muigua, Isaac Makokha, Junaid Manji, Kevin Anyien, Mwathi Gicheru, Daniel Kiragu, Ebill Omollo, Tsevi Soni, and Yuvraj Rajput.

The event will feature two rounds of the foursomes and four-ball-better-ball over 36 holes (four pairs against four) before the final singles round on Saturday. Last year, Uganda stood out in the four-ball better-ball format, earning 3.5 points while allowing only 0.5. Uganda was also 4-0 in the foursomes and squared it out 2-2 with their opponents in the fourballs.