

Coach Okumu in as Nemo eye Africa rise

Technical Boost. Nemostars have strengthened their technical bench with the addition of experienced Kenyan coach Okumu, signalling serious intent as they seek a stronger showing at the upcoming CAVB Men's Club Championship in Kigali.

BY EMANZI INDYAMUHAKI

AT A GLANCE

Full Name: Godfrey Owese Okumu

Nationality: Kenyan

DOB: August 11, 1968

Age: 57 years

Previous teams coached

2009-2012: Oita Miyoshi

Weisse Adler

2016-2018: Hakata Girls

High School

2017-2022: UP Lady

Fighting Maroons

2019: Motolite Power

Builders

2025: Galleries Tower

Highrisers

When Nemostars take to the court in the CAVB Men's Club Championship this week, there will be a new face on the touch-line.

Godfrey Owese Okumu has been added to the coaching team and has been taking the team through paces in the last few weeks.

Okumu is a Kenyan volleyball coach, who played for the national team in the 90s and the early 2000s.

After his retirement, he moved to Japan, where he worked as an English teacher in the Kumamoto Prefecture in 2002 before coaching.

He holds an FIVB Level 3 coaching certificate and is a member of the Japanese Society of Volleyball Research.

The 57-year-old was part of the Kenya women's national team coaching staff at the 2006 and 2010 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championships, as well as in the 2011 and 2015 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Cups.

He will be assisted by Tom Amou.

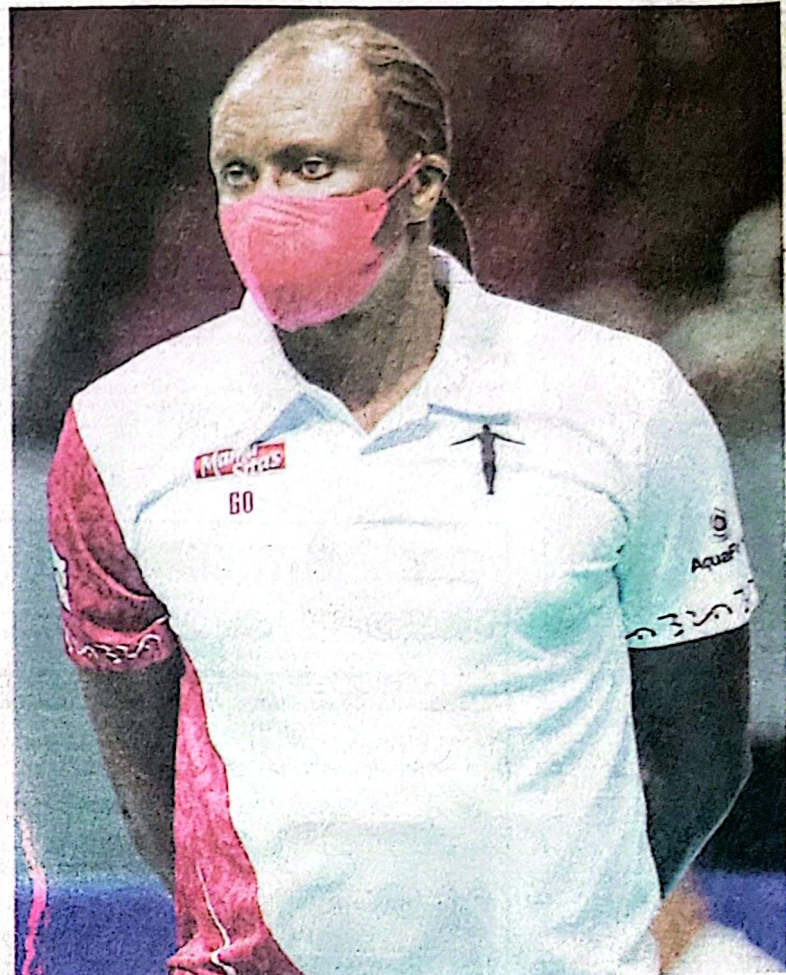
Big dreams

Okumu's addition is among the several adjustments the team has made ahead of the competition.

Daudi Okello, Emmanuel Elanyu, Mark Omara, Hussein Adome and Titi Okumu are the players the team has added to beef up and put up a good show in Kigali. Having finished 19th at the last edition of the championship held in Misrata, Libya, the six-time league winners will be looking to greatly improve this time round.

The club has been Uganda's most consistent representative on the continent and finished sixth in 2019, marking the country's best ever ranking in the tournament.

And with Okumu boosting the coaching team, Okello and Elanyu adding the much-needed experience in the playing staff, Nemostars go into the tournament



Bench Brain. Having done his mileage on the global courts, coach Okumu arrives to turn the tide for Nemostars. PHOTO/COURTESY

with high expectations.

Experienced crew

George Aporu, Smith Okumu and Bernard Malinga have been mainstays in the Nemostars team over the years and will be the leaders going into the event.

"The goal is for us to do well in the group games and qualify for the knockout rounds," veteran setter Okumu told *Daily Monitor*.

Over 30 teams are expected to take part in the tournament and a

32-team format has been adopted, which will see teams drawn in eight groups.

The top two from each group will then qualify for the Round of 16 while the last two drop out.

There will be no classification games played by teams outside the top 16, making the group games crucial for any team looking to play more games.

Sport-S, Uganda's other representative, will be making their continental debut in Kigali.

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