NAMUTEBI IMPRESSES IN US

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL NSUBUGA



National swimmer Kirabo Namutebi in action in a previous local event. The Uganda is posting impressive results in USA

By Silvano Kibuuka

National Collegiate Swimming Championship
50m Freestyle (Top Three)

K. Namutebi (IND)	22.10
Kristina Orban (NSU)	22.35
A. Naskret (UWF)	22.55

National team swimmer Kirabo Namutebi has raised the bar in her career after winning another gold medal at the 2026 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Swimming Championships in the USA.

The University of Indianapolis student beat a strong field of eight finalists in the 50m freestyle, clocking 22.10 seconds to win the title and reclaim the crown she first won in 2024.

Silver medalist Kristina Orban touched the wall in 22.35 seconds, while Agata Naskret finished third with 22.55 seconds.

A Wednesday report from the championship indicated that Namutebi broke away midway through the race.

"Namutebi had a very strong turn, taking a massive lead after the first 25 meters and pushing her way to the gold medal," the report noted.

She represented the University of Indianapolis in the 50m freestyle after qualifying for the national championship two weeks ago when she excelled at the Great Valley Lakes Conference (GLVC) championship.

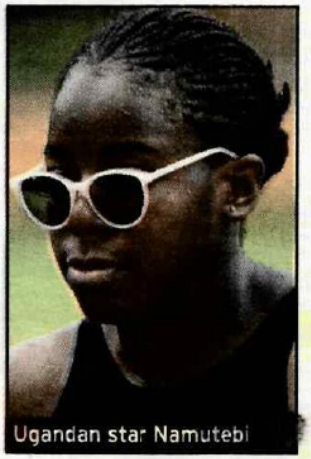
Although Namutebi competes in several sprint events, her university selected her for the 50m freestyle, where she has proved particularly strong, according to her mentor, sponsor and mother, Hadija Namanda.

Namanda said she has impressed despite the high level of competition in the United States.

"There are many swimmers in America, but they opted to field her in the 50m freestyle and she performed very well. She remains a multiple short-distance sprinter and a national record holder in Uganda," Namanda said.

"As a parent, coach and sponsor, I am very proud of her for keeping the Ugandan flag flying high even without family around to cheer her on apart from her university. She is very hard-working, humble, focused and she keeps improving under her coaches," she added.

Namanda noted that the victory was not surprising because Namutebi had already shown strong form two weeks earlier when she won both the 50m and 100m freestyle titles at the GLVC Championship, which served as preparation for the national championship.



Ugandan star Namutebi

"Namutebi remains a national champion at home and I believe she will do an amazing job for the Ugandan national team as she continues to make waves for her university. I believe her work will be appreciated one day," Namanda said.

She added that the family will continue supporting her career and celebrating her achievements as she continues to shine internationally.