

Kitende settle for Shs740m as Lions deny Uganda big continental crown

Pair hailed. Senegal and Ghana won the boys and girls respective titles during the 2026 Caf African Schools Football U-15 Championship. The final two matches were played under sunny conditions.

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CAF AFRICAN SCHOOLS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Boys' final: Senegal **0-0** Uganda (Senegal won 5-4 on penalties)

Girls' final: Ghana **0-0** B. Faso

(Ghana won 9-8 on pens)

Kitende's run to the final

Kitende **1-1** Zimbabwe

Kitende **6-0** DR Congo

Kitende **3-0** Morocco

Semifinal: Uganda **0-0** Benin

(Uganda won 4-3 on pens)

Individual awards

Player of the tournament: Bara Gueye (Senegal)

Goalkeeper of the tournament: Prosper Pereira (Senegal)

Top scorer: Owen Mukisa

(Kitende) - 5 goals

Uganda's dream of landing the Shs1.1bn jackpot and continental glory fell agonisingly short after St Mary's Kitende lost 5-4 on penalties to Senegal in the boys' final of the Caf African Schools Football Championship in Norton, Zimbabwe on Friday.

Kitende, representing Uganda, will instead return home with about Shs740m, money that is ring-fenced to fund long-term school projects such as classroom construction, library renovation and improvement of sports facilities.

Captain Livingstone Kulata endured the heartbreak of missing the decisive penalty, his effort saved by Senegal goalkeeper Prosper Pereira, who emerged the hero after both sides had played out a goalless draw in regulation time.

Painful finish

The final, played over two halves of 20 minutes, was tightly contested with few clear chances in the opening period.

Uganda grew into the game after the break, with Shakur Ngobi blasting over from close range after being teed up by Owen Mukisa.

Goalkeeper Imran Ssebbale then kept Uganda level with a fine save to deny Mamadou's half volley as Senegal pressed.

Despite Uganda's defensive resilience, Senegal looked the more fluid side but could not find a breakthrough, forcing the match into penalties.



Needing fresh ideas. Captain Livingstone Kulata in action during the semifinal clash as Uganda's representatives, St Mary's Kitende, secured a silver medal finish at the tournament. PHOTOS/COURTESY OF USSSA

Senegal were flawless from the spot, converting all five kicks. Bashir Edema, Shafiq Kitimbo, Frank Musisi and Akram Ssenyonga all scored for Uganda before Kulata's effort was saved, handing Senegal their first title.

Money with purpose

While the defeat denied Kitende the top prize of about Shs1.1bn, the roughly Shs740m earned is expected to leave a lasting impact back home.

The prize money is strictly allocated to development projects within schools, ensuring sustainable benefits beyond the pitch.

Previous winners have invested in modern classrooms, upgraded libraries and improved training facilities—

turning football success into educational growth.

The same model will now apply to Kitende, whose impressive run to the final has already elevated their status on the continent.

Individual honours

Uganda still had reason to celebrate individually, with Owen Mukisa finishing as the tournament's top scorer with five goals.

Senegal dominated the individual accolades, with captain Bara Gueye named player of the tournament and Pereira taking the best goalkeeper award after his decisive save in the final.

In the girls' category, Ghana successfully defended their title, edging Burkina

Faso 9-8 on penalties after another goalless draw. Zambia secured third place with a 2-0 victory over Morocco.

This was the fourth edition of the competition, which continues to grow in stature across the continent. Mali's CS Ben Sekou Sylla won the inaugural title, while Tanzania claimed back-to-back crowns before Senegal's breakthrough triumph. It was launched by Caf president Patrice Motsepe on May 11, 2022 in Maputo, Mozambique.

Starting XI: Imran Ssebbale (GK); Eze Kombi, Haruna Kisakye, Shafiq Kitimbo, Elisa Mukasa; Musa Kironde, Bashir Edema, Lucky Wanyama, Owen Mukisa; Nabiru Kajumba, Shakur Ngobi.