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ZAMBIA FIGHT TO KEEP OLYMPIC DREAM ALIVE

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ZAMBIA WELCOMES HOME GOLD-WINNING BASEBALL5 YOUTH TEAM

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ZAMBIA OPEN FUTSAL AFCON CAMPAIGN WITH 3-1 WIN OVER LIBYA

By Lucky Chama



Zambia made a winning start to their TotalEnergies CAF Futsal Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2026 campaign after defeating Libya 3-1 in the tournament's opening match in Rabat on Monday.

The Chipolopolo capitalised on their scoring opportunities to claim all three points in the Group A encounter, with Patrick Mwila netting twice to lead Zambia to an important victory.

Zambia wasted little time making their intentions clear, with Royd Chishala opening the scoring in the second minute to give the side an early advantage.

The Chipolopolo maintained their momentum and doubled their lead just four minutes later through Mwila, putting Libya under immediate pressure and giving Zambia a strong platform to control the contest.

The early goals provided Zambia with a confidence boost as they continued to threaten in search of further opportunities. Libya, meanwhile, faced the challenge of containing Zambia's attacking threat while attempting to find a route back into the match.

Zambia carried their advantage into the second half and struck again in the 23rd minute, with Mwila completing his brace to extend the lead to 3-0.

The goal gave the Chipolopolo greater breathing space as they moved closer to securing their first victory of the continental competition.

Despite trailing by three goals, Libya continued searching for a response and eventually found the net in the final minute of the match.

Mohammed Abu Raas scored in the 40th minute to reduce the deficit, but the late breakthrough came too late to change the outcome as Zambia held firm to secure a 3-1 victory.

The result gives Zambia an encouraging start to their Group A campaign and puts them in a strong position as they pursue qualification for the semi-finals.

Mwila's brace was a major highlight of the performance, while Chishala's early strike helped establish the foundation for the victory. Zambia's ability to convert their opportunities proved decisive in a closely contested opening fixture.

However, the Chipolopolo will face a tougher test in their next assignment when they take on hosts and defending champions Morocco on Wednesday, October 14.

The encounter will provide Zambia with an opportunity to build on their opening performance against one of the tournament's leading sides. A positive result would further strengthen their ambitions of advancing from Group A.

Zambia will then conclude their group-stage campaign against Algeria on Friday, October 16, in what could prove to be a crucial fixture in determining their progression to the knockout stage.

Libya, meanwhile, will seek to recover from the opening defeat when they face Algeria on Wednesday before taking on Morocco in their final group match on Friday.

With two group matches remaining, Zambia will be looking to maintain their momentum and turn their promising start into a place in the semi-finals.

RUGBY TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT TEULINGS YOUTH SPORTS CHALLENGE

By Lucky Chama



Rugby took centre stage at the Teulings Youth Sports Challenge as young athletes competed in the Under-14 and Under-17 categories at the OYDC Zambia Sports Development Centre, with basketball and table tennis also featuring prominently over the weekend.

The rugby competition produced several entertaining encounters, with Lions and OYDC among the teams recording victories in a series of closely contested matches.

In the Under-14 category, Lions made a strong start with a 15–0 victory over Chibolya before overcoming OYDC 15–5.

OYDC later played out a 10–10 draw against Chazanga in a competitive encounter that saw both sides share the points.

Chibolya also registered a victory against OYDC, edging the hosts 20–15 in another closely fought match as the teams continued to demonstrate their determination and attacking ability.

The Under-17 category equally delivered high-scoring encounters, with Lions edging OYDC 30–25 in one of the weekend's closely contested fixtures.

OYDC responded positively by securing a convincing 20–5 victory over Barbarians, showing resilience after their earlier defeat to Lions.

Lions, however, finished their fixtures on a high note, recording an emphatic 40–10 victory over Barbarians to underline their attacking strength in the age group.

Beyond rugby, basketball and table tennis added to the excitement of the Teulings Youth Sports Challenge, giving young athletes from different sporting disciplines an opportunity to showcase their abilities and gain valuable competitive experience.

The multi-sport event also provided a platform for participants to interact with fellow athletes while developing skills that extend beyond competition, including teamwork, discipline, respect and fair play.

The Teulings Youth Sports Challenge continues to support youth participation in sport by creating opportunities for young people to discover and develop their talents in a structured sporting environment.

Through initiatives such as the challenge, OYDC Zambia and its partners remain focused on promoting grassroots sport and nurturing young athletes, helping them build confidence and gain experience that can support their future sporting ambitions.

HAALUBONO BANKS ON HOME ADVANTAGE TO BEAT UGANDA

By Lucky Chama



Interim Copper Queens coach Charles Haalubono is banking on home advantage and an improved performance as Zambia seeks to overturn a 2-1 deficit against Uganda in this evening's return leg of the second-round 2028 Olympic qualifiers.

The match will be played at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola, with kick-off scheduled for 18:00 hours.

Zambia must win to keep alive its hopes of qualifying for the Olympic Games for a third consecutive time, with either Ghana or Mauritius awaiting the winner in the next round.

Speaking at a pre-match media briefing on Monday, Haalubono said the technical bench had identified areas that needed improvement following the first-leg defeat and had worked with the players to address them.

He criticised the team's approach in the opening encounter, saying Zambia allowed Uganda too much space to play but expressed confidence that the Copper Queens would perform better on home soil.

"We gave them too much space when they had the ball. That is why I said the attitude was not good. We have worked on it; we have to press and work extra hard as we play," Haalubono said.

"I'm so sure the team will perform better because this is our home ground, and we are used to this pitch."

The Copper Queens will be looking to use the support of the home crowd to overturn the deficit and move closer to securing another Olympic appearance.

Captain Barbra Banda said the team was determined to return to the Olympics for a third time, but stressed that qualification would require the right attitude and determination.

"It is important for us as a team to go back to the Olympics for a third time, but it takes attitude and determination. We know what it takes, but it will not be easy," Banda said.

"Definitely, we are looking for a win so that we can go to Los Angeles, where it will be held. For me, I will be excited to go there."

Banda, who plays for Orlando Pride in the United States, added that the Copper Queens needed to remain composed and make the right decisions at crucial moments instead of rushing their approach.

Meanwhile, Uganda assistant coach Ahumuza Collins said the Crested Cranes had travelled to Ndola with the intention of securing another victory and completing a double over Zambia.

Collins dismissed concerns about playing away from home, insisting that his team was prepared to compete regardless of the conditions.

"Having won the game at home, we will still play to win the game in Zambia. We hope God will have mercy on us and we will be able to carry the day," Collins said.

"We have played on a natural turf before, and for us, it is not about the conditions we will play in. We have set our minds to winning the game."

Uganda captain Nadia Nankya said determination was key to her team's first-leg victory and would again be important in the return encounter.

"It was not easy for us in the first leg, but we stayed determined because we know the game ends after the final whistle. That is why we gave it all until the final whistle, and that is why we got a win," Nankya said.

With Zambia needing to overturn the deficit and Uganda seeking to protect its advantage, the Ndola encounter is set to determine which side advances to the third round of the Olympic qualifiers.



ZPL SUSPENDS ALL MIDWEEK LEAGUE MATCHES

By Lucky Chama



The Zambian Premier League (ZPL) has suspended all midweek league matches across its four competitions with immediate effect, until further notice.

In a memo dated October 11, 2026, ZPL Chief Executive Officer Joseph Chimpampwe informed all member clubs that the suspension affects the MTN Super League, Women's Super Division, Men's National Division and Women's National Division.

The directive covers all matches scheduled from Monday to Friday, including rescheduled and postponed fixtures that had been allocated midweek dates.

However, the league has clarified that matches scheduled for the weekend of October 17–18 will proceed as planned and will not be affected by the decision.

"All midweek matches (Monday to Friday) in the MTN Super League, the Women's Super Division, the Men's National Division and the Women's National Division are suspended until further notice," the memo stated.

The ZPL said suspended fixtures would be moved to new dates to be announced by the league, warning clubs against making independent arrangements to play the affected matches.

Clubs have also been directed to immediately communicate the decision to their players, officials, supporters and service providers.

Despite the suspension, clubs have been advised to remain on standby for further developments from the league.

The ZPL did not state the reason for the suspension in the memo, nor did it provide a timeline for when the affected fixtures would be rescheduled.

The decision leaves the affected clubs awaiting further communication on revised dates, while preparations for the October 17–18 weekend programme are expected to continue as scheduled.

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ZBSA WELCOMES HOME GOLD-WINNING BASEBALL5 YOUTH TEAM

By Enock Phiri



The Zambia Baseball Softball Association (ZBSA) has welcomed Team Zambia back home following its gold-medal triumph at the Southern Region Baseball5 Youth Qualifier in Gaborone, Botswana.

The tournament, held from October 8 to 11, 2026, saw Zambia emerge champions, marking a significant achievement for the development of Baseball5 in the country.

In a statement issued in Lusaka on Monday, October 12, ZBSA expressed gratitude to parents and guardians, the National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ), the National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ), sponsors, partners and well-wishers for their support throughout the competition.

The association said the achievement reflected the dedication of the athletes and technical team, as well as the collective efforts of stakeholders committed to growing the sport in Zambia.

Following the regional success, attention has now shifted to preparations for the upcoming Continental Championship.

ZBSA has appealed for additional support to ensure the team is adequately prepared for the next assignment, with the association seeking financial contributions, equipment, training resources and logistical assistance.

Corporate organisations, institutions, individuals and other sports supporters have been encouraged to partner with the association in providing the resources needed to help the athletes prepare for the continental competition.

The association said continued collaboration among stakeholders would be important in building on the team's success in Botswana and strengthening Zambia's competitiveness at the next level.

ZBSA thanked all those who supported the team during the regional qualifier and expressed hope that the backing would continue as Team Zambia targets further success on the continental stage.

ZAMBIA CADET JUDOKAS STRIKE GOLD WITH 15 MEDALS IN ZIMBABWE

By Enock Phiri

Zambia's national cadet judo team delivered an impressive performance at the Japanese Ambassador's Cup in Zimbabwe, winning 15 medals at the competition held on 10 October 2026.

The young judokas collected seven gold, five silver and three bronze medals, underlining their potential as they prepare for upcoming regional and international assignments.

The tournament formed part of Zambia's preparations for the 2026 African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Youth Games in Maputo, Mozambique, and the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

Leading Zambia's gold-medal charge were Grace Mubila in the 44kg category, Natasha Taonga Mbewe (52kg), Obison Banda (55kg), Taonga Ndhlovu (57kg), Edwin Chitambala (60kg), Christopher Hapolo Katongo (73kg) and Sasha Kapumpa (+78kg).



The silver medals went to Albertina Mafuta (48kg), Bwalya Mulenga (52kg), Daniel Mulenga (55kg), Mirriam Seulu (63kg) and Simon Mukadi (66kg).

Zambia also secured three bronze medals through Elisha Zimba (55kg), Richard Mwila (60kg) and Simon Siamutwe (66kg).

The team competed under the guidance of coaches Ndungu Mwitumwa and Humphrey Nyirenda, who continue to oversee the athletes' development and competitive preparations.

The Judo Association of Zambia congratulated the athletes and coaches on their achievement, reaffirming its commitment to preparing the team for success on the regional and international stage.

ZAMBIA DRAWN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE AND RWANDA

By Enock Phiri



Zambia's Women's Sevens team faces a demanding assignment at the 2026 Africa Women's Sevens tournament after being drawn in Pool A alongside regional rivals South Africa, Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

The continental competition is scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, on November 7–8, bringing together African nations competing for continental honours and an opportunity to strengthen their standing in women's rugby sevens.

The draw presents Zambia with three contrasting tests, with South Africa expected to provide a particularly difficult challenge given its established record in the women's game, while Zimbabwe and Rwanda offer further tests of the Zambian side's consistency and ability to compete across a demanding pool schedule.

South Africa has been one of the leading forces in African women's sevens in recent years. The Springbok Women's Sevens side won the 2024 Africa Women's Sevens title in Accra, Ghana, and entered the 2025 edition in Nairobi as defending champions. Their presence in Zambia's pool therefore underlines the level of competition the Zambian team must prepare for.

Zimbabwe will also be a familiar regional opponent, making the pool an important measure of Zambia's progress against teams it could encounter in future continental competitions. Rwanda's inclusion adds another challenge, with every pool match likely to be important in determining the teams' progression into the next stage.

For Zambia, the tournament represents more than a series of matches. It is an opportunity to demonstrate the development of women's rugby sevens in the country, test the squad against strong opposition and gain valuable experience at continental level.

Sevens rugby places a premium on speed, fitness, discipline and decision-making. With seven players per side and matches played over shorter periods than the traditional 15-a-side game, teams must make effective use of possession, defend space quickly and capitalise on scoring opportunities. A single missed tackle, handling error or poorly managed restart can quickly change the direction of a match.

Zambia's preparations will therefore be crucial, particularly in building the fitness required to sustain high-intensity performances across several matches in a short period. Effective defensive organisation, accurate passing, support play and the ability to convert breaks into tries could prove decisive against the Pool A opposition.

The draw also gives the technical bench an opportunity to assess the team's strengths and identify areas requiring improvement before the competition begins. Preparation will need to account for the different challenges posed by each opponent rather than relying on one approach throughout the pool stage.

Beyond the immediate challenge, the Africa Women's Sevens provides an important platform for the continued growth of the women's game across the continent. Rugby Africa identifies the tournament as its flagship women's sevens competition, with the leading team earning a pathway to the World Rugby Challenger Series, making continental performances significant beyond the title itself.

Zambia will consequently be seeking to make the most of the opportunity in Nairobi, with competitive performances capable of raising the team's profile and contributing to the long-term development of women's rugby at home.

With South Africa, Zimbabwe and Rwanda standing between Zambia and a strong pool-stage campaign, the team will need to combine preparation, composure and consistency to give itself the best chance of progressing in the tournament.

The focus now turns to preparations ahead of the November competition, as Zambia looks to represent the country strongly on the African stage.


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COVENTRY ANNOUNCE THEMSELVES BACK IN THE BIG TIME

By BBC Sport



The last time Coventry won at home in the Premier League former Spice Girl Emma Bunton was top of the charts with 'What Took You So Long?'

The title could not be more fitting as the Sky Blues ended their 25-year wait for a top-flight goal and victory in front of their own fans.

Baby Spice's song may not live long in the memory but Coventry's thumping win over Newcastle will stick with the home supporters.

Jack Rudoni's penalty, Sidiki Cherif's first Sky Blues goal and late strikes from Ellis Simms and Stephen Mfuni lifted them out of the relegation zone in style.

Level on points with Manchester United after six games and out of the drop zone following successive wins, Frank Lampard's men have announced themselves in the top flight again.

Coventry backed up their victory at Nottingham Forest before the international break, scoring four goals in the top flight for the first time since a 4-1 win over Sheffield Wednesday in May 2000.
Those around the Sky Blues' training ground at Ryton feel that, if they are competitive over the next seven games, they will have a platform for survival.

A trip to Tottenham and the visit of Fulham - both winless - come next, with games against Sunderland, Everton, Crystal Palace, Leeds and Ipswich to take them into December.

"It's big and we have to tap into that in a good way, in a humble way," said Lampard, whose side are now 14th.

"We have to be excited and I'm seeing players in my eyes that are developing quite quickly.

"A lot of players had low Premier League minutes, or zero Premier League minutes - Jack Rudoni, [Brandon] Thomas Asante, [Ephron] Mason-Clark, a lot of them.

"So is it human nature in the first few games we've had two top teams in the league (Arsenal and Manchester City) and we've had Brighton and we've gone: 'hmm, it's not easy here'.

Coventry's previous home games had seen them fall to a 1-0 defeat by fellow promoted side Hull before a 5-0 thumping by Brighton.

NAKOMBE NETS FOUR GOALS IN TWO GAMES IN ITALY

By Enock Phiri



Zambian hockey star Carol Nakombe continued her impressive scoring form in Italy, netting both goals as Bologna Hockey Team edged Pisa Hockey Team 2–1.

The former Galatea forward took her tally to four goals in just two matches since joining Bologna's women's team in Italy's Serie A1, underlining her growing influence at the club.

Nakombe has carried her goalscoring prowess onto the European stage after enjoying a prolific spell in Zambia, where she finished as the Zambia Hockey Association (ZHA) Premier League's top scorer in two consecutive seasons.

Her match-winning display against Pisa further strengthens her promising start in Italy, with the Zambian forward proving decisive in securing all three points for Bologna.

Nakombe's move to Italy provides another opportunity for Zambian hockey talent to gain international exposure and compete at a higher level.

With four goals already to her name, the forward will be looking to maintain her scoring form as she continues her campaign in the Italian league.

RONALDO SCORES IN AL NASSR WIN AFTER SECURITY DELAY IN RIYADH

By ESPN



Cristiano Ronaldo scored what proved to be the decisive goal in Al Nassr's Asian Champions League Elite win over Neftchi Fergana on Monday in Saudi Arabia.

The match was delayed for an hour as Saudi Arabia's Civil Defense issued a security alert after the coalition said it had twice intercepted and destroyed ballistic missiles launched Monday by the Houthi rebels toward Riyadh. At least three explosions could be heard Monday night in the city.

A sparse crowd at Al-Awwal Park remained in their seats as the teams waited to kick off.

The goal by 41-year-old Ronaldo -- the 981st of his career -- doubled Al Nassr's lead just before the break after Ângelo Gabriel had opened the scoring just past the half-hour mark. It was the 134th goal for Ronaldo since joining Al Nassr in January 2023.

The visitors cut the lead in half after coming out of the dressing room with a goal from Alisher Odilov, but an own goal put Al Nassr back in front by two and they were able to see out the 3-1 result from there.

It was the first win of the campaign for head coach Ange Postecoglou and Al Nassr in Asia's premier club competition after they had lost their opener to Al Ain 4-0 on Sept. 15.

The loss to Al Ain came ahead of an eventful international break for Ronaldo, who left the Portugal national team in the middle of the window after a misunderstanding with coach Jorge Jesus over playing time.

Ronaldo subsequently apologized to his teammates and supporters, admitting he should not have left the camp and calling on the federation to punish him for his actions.

The FPF confirmed Saturday that disciplinary proceedings had been opened against Ronaldo, with the case referred to its Disciplinary Investigation Commission.

The Iran-backed Houthis have claimed a series of recent missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia, including strikes on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport that killed at least 13 people and wounded over 300 over the weekend.

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