

Saturday

TOUGH TEST

By David Namunyala

National Netball League
Today, Police Children
School, Kibuli
NIC v UCU
Prisons v Makindye
KCCA v Posta
Police v UPDF

Coach Vincent Kiwanuka believes that the return of goal shooter Stella Oyella will strongly contribute to NIC's victory in the National Netball League this season.

Oyella, a two-time 'player of the match' winner at the just concluded Netball World Cup returned to NIC this year after three seasons with league champions Prisons.

"She is a good player and with her on the team you are assured of positive results," said Kiwanuka.

Oyella is expected to team up with Racheal Nanyonga in the goal cycle today as they play students side UCU netball club in the opening fixture at the Police Children School grounds, Kibuli.

Kiwanuka is also counting on players like Ruth Meeme, Betty Kizza, Muhaimina Namuwaya, Desire Obua and Joan Nampungu on the starting team as they look towards notching their opening victory.

However, league champions Prisons are likely to have some tough time this season following the departure of Oyella and centre player Halima Nakachwa.



Stella Oyella (right) expected to lead NIC's assault in the netball league. Photo by D. Namunyala

Besides Oyella who crossed to rival side NIC, Nakachwa deserted the team during the She Cranes friendly engagement with the England Roses late last year in London.

The absence of the two lead players saw Prisons fail to defend their title at the East Africa Netball Club

Championship in Zanzibar this year, but team coach Imelda Nyongesa is adamant that her side will not surrender the league trophy that easily.

Nyongesa is hopeful that with their new signing of former KCCA defender Irene Akello, they can put up a for-

midable show. "Yes we lost two instrumental players, but we have to look ahead and I have faith in the rest of the players and I strongly believe that we shall retain the league title," Nyongesa noted.

Prisons will launch their title quest against newly promoted side Makindye today.