

Uganda fall short but find hope in Thailand

BY INNOCENT NDAWULA

ICC WOMEN'S EMERGING NATIONS TROPHY 2025

Uganda - Full Results

Sco'and **115/9** | Uganda **100/6**

Scotland won by 15 runs

Namibia **83/8** | Uganda **71/7**

Namibia won by 12 runs

Uganda **117/4** | PNG **113/7**

Uganda won by 4 runs

Uganda **75/8** | UAE **76/0**

UAE won by 10 wickets

Uganda **55/10** | Thailand **58/2**

Thailand won by 8 wickets

Tanzania **54/10** | Uganda **55/3**

Uganda won by 7 wickets

Uganda **111/6** | N'lands **112/4**

N'lands won by 6 wickets

ed but ultimately insufficient display in their final match against Netherlands at the Terdthai Cricket Ground in Bangkok on November 30. Sent in to bat after losing the toss, Uganda's innings never settled into a full stride. The early loss of opener Esther Iloku and captain Janet Mbabazi had the Pearls wobbling at 26 for 2 after the Powerplay. It was another familiar rebuilding job, one they have been tasked with too often during this campaign.

But this time, the scaffolding held longer than expected.

Proscovia Alako and all-rounder Stephanie Nampiina stitched together Uganda's most purposeful passage of play, combining caution with bursts of aggression. Alako's unbeaten 34 — including a stunning 19-run final over — injected late belief into the innings, while Nampiina's steady 21 gave the scoreboard the weight it needed to stay competitive.

Coach Muhumuza, however, felt the side came up "30 runs short" on a wicket that improved as the innings progressed.

Guard down

"We gifted them early wickets," he reflected. "At this level you must not let your guard down. Tight, disciplined batting would have taken us to about 140, which was the winning score today."

Netherlands' chase was ruthless and well-measured. Uganda claimed an early wicket through Kevin Amuge, but the Dutch openers, led by the outstanding Sterre Kalis and Robine Rijke, launched a blistering counterattack. By the end of the Powerplay, the Dutch were cruising at 50 for 2, effectively breaking the back of the chase.

Even with pockets of disciplined bowling, the Pearls could not recover from wayward lines and the 12 extras they conceded. Netherlands sealed the chase inside 15 overs, winning by six wickets and confirming Uganda's sixth-place finish with two wins from seven matches.

Skipper unfazed

Despite the defeat, skipper Mbabazi reserved praise for her young side.

"I think the girls came to the party," she said. "Proscovia (Alako) and Nampiina showed real intent and belief. We just need to learn how to handle pressure moments better and bounce back quickly."

Uganda's 111/6 was their second highest total of the tournament — a sign of growth in their batting temperament — but their bowling inconsistencies and the inability to seize key moments against top emerging nations remain areas demanding urgent attention. Still, the Pearls leave Thailand better informed than they arrived.

"We have a clear picture now of where we want to go," Muhumuza added. "We must grow the pool, improve skillsets, and produce bowlers who can survive at this level."

As Uganda returned home for a brief festive break before January's revamped programme, there is a sense that while sixth place was not the desired finish, this campaign revealed tactical truths that the group must now convert into long-term gains.

Allure Of Runs. Alako (R) displayed fearless hitting, including 19 runs off the final over, during Match 25 of the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2025 against the Netherlands at Terdthai Ground, Bangkok on 30 November 2025. PHOTO/COURTESY - ICC



02

UGANDA WINS
IN THAILAND