Africa Connects

2011 Africa Centre Cup Soccer Tournament



July 2011

www.africacentre.ca

The Beautiful Game!



Team Ethiopia in action against Team DR Congo at Poplar Park sports fields.

Photo Credit: T. Bumbeh

The 2011 Africa Centre Cup Soccer Tournament has another successful year!

By Africa Centre Staff

EDMONTON - There is nothing better to celebrate Canada's birthday then a game of *football* between your brothers and other ex-pats! Coupled with a host BBQ, cold drinks and other fun activities for family, and friends, it's truly Canadian, eh?

The festival atmosphere was infectious, as neighbors adjacent to the Poplar Park sports fields in north Edmonton joined in on the music and family-friendly activities which took place alongside the competitive action of the games being played in the annual Africa Centre Cup Soccer Tournament July 1 and 2.

Twelve teams from various Edmonton African ethnocultural communities celebrated the tournaments theme of unity and fraternity, continuing a tone set by the Mayor's declaration on June 18 acknowledging the United Nation's proclamation of 2011 being the Year for People of African Decent.

continued inside...

Inside

Group Results

Playoff Results

Organizing Committee

Pictures

What is the Africa Centre?

Sponsors

... and more!

4th Annual Tournament

- 12 local Edmonton based teams.
- 26 games played over two days!
- Africa's newest country South Sudan participated in this year's tournament!
- Over 500 spectators, family and friends each day.

... from the front page

With eight of the twelve teams continuing to single elimination playoff the next day, a highlight for everyone was the participation of Africa's newest country, South Sudan. The team made it through the group play, to compete for the championship as one of the wild-card teams—in their inaugural year participating in the tournament, and under the flag of their own nation.

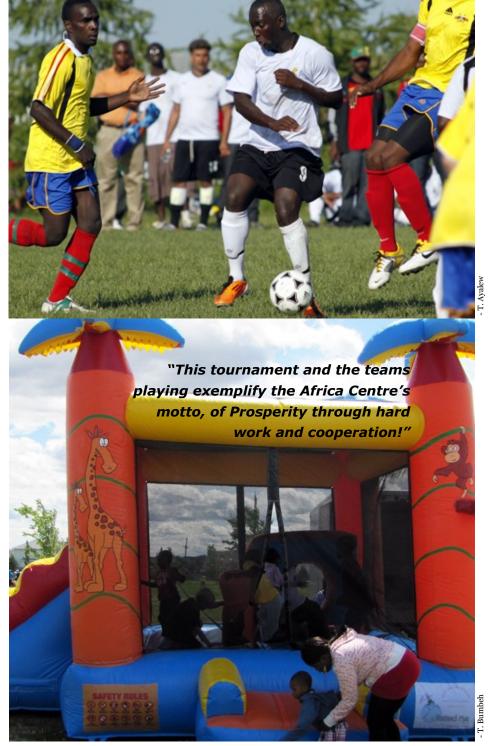
The defending champions from last year tournament Ghana, was eliminated by the surprise dark horse team, Uganda. The Ugandan side seemed to slowly be building momentum each year - as one of the founding teams. Playing in every tournament to date, defeating last year's champion Sudan was , "very satisfying" said Team Manager, Nelson Kibanda, also one of the event chairs'.

"This tournament and the teams playing exemplify the Africa Centre's motto of, *Prosperity through hard work and cooperation!*" said Tesfaye Ayalew, Executive Director of the Africa Centre - the organization backing the championships. "We are so proud to be able to bring together African Communities in Edmonton through positive events such as this yearly soccer tournament." This years focus of, "creating a festival atmosphere so families can attend and spend the entire day together," was a formula that was indeed successful, with over 500 people on-site each day.

As kids played in the bouncy castle, and the DJ played tunes on the turntables, the smell of the BBQ food provided a welcomed distraction to the teams who were defeated in their games, as they sat down to share a bite to eat with their opponents.

"We were so fortunate to have such supportive community partners that helped to make this event grow each year" says Tesfaye, "Next years tournament will be even better!"



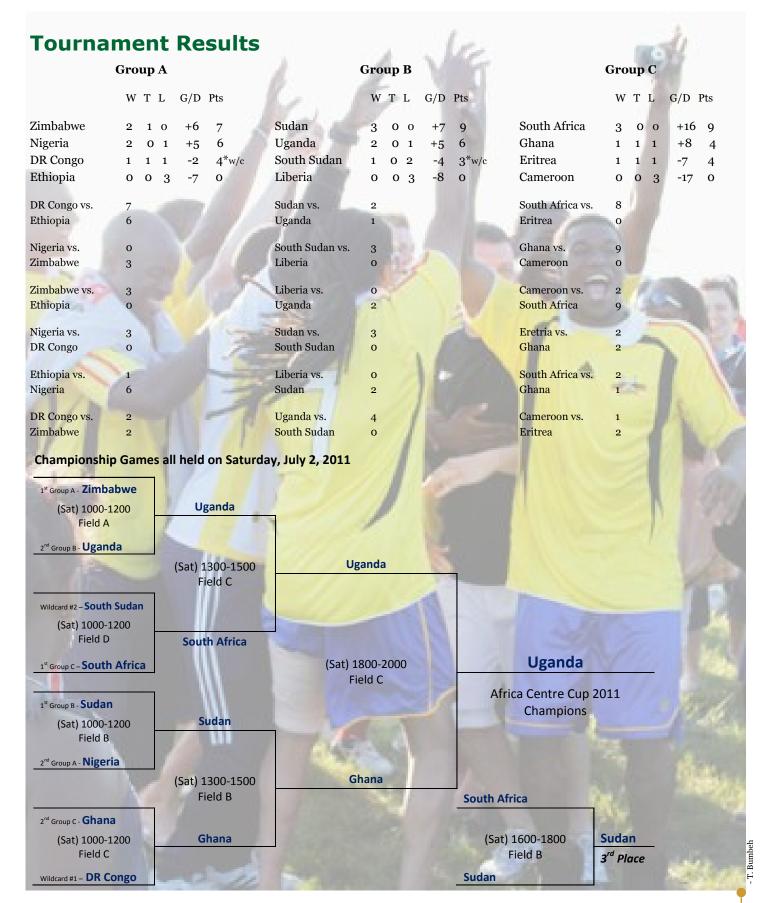


The Organizing Committee and Volunteers

Thank you everyone!

Alison Cammaert Amandla Ngwenya Ameen Kadri Brenda Smith Chris Arsenault Darcy Hans Dominic Sithole Jabulani (JB) Dube Keli Tamaklo Lucy Abu Merhert Worku Mike Chow Nasu Saffa Nelson Kibanda Patrick Chieriro Ruth McIntyre Tesfaye Ayalew Thomas Bumbeh Tich Tamanikwa ... and many more!

Page 2



www.africacentre.ca Page 3



The Africa Centre

The Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta op/as

The Africa Centre

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"Prosperity through hard work and cooperation!"

What is the Africa Centre?

The Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (CAAC) is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious organization registered under the Society's Act in Alberta. The founding member countries are: Somalia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda. The Board of Directors are respected leaders of African organizations and have earned the respect and trust of the African communities through their community works. The purpose of the CAAC is to advocate on behalf of its members on issues of interest and concern, to manage a one-stop multi-purpose centre where culturally appropriate programs, services and activities are delivered to members of the community. The Organization strives to create opportunities for access and full participation of members of the African community in all aspects of society including economic, social, cultural and educational endeavors and contribute to the holistic development and wellness of the African individual, family and community. Essentially, our motto is *prosperity through hard work and cooperation*.

Objectives:

- 1. Manage and administer the African Center.
- 2. Create a welcoming, safe and supportive environment, provide resources and integrated services to meet individual need. Encourage Africans in Edmonton to be active participants in all civic opportunities and responsibilities of our city, province and nation
- 3. Develop and coordinate programs and services to address the diverse needs of African youth including after school programs, stay-in-school initiatives, peer support and mediation, crime prevention, business training, the environment, health, leadership development, recreational and sports activities.
- 4. Engage in programs and activities that create economic, educational, social, cultural and professional opportunities for its members. Develop and implement activities that encourage voluntarism, increased civic understanding, responsible citizenship leading to active participation in all levels of political activities;
- **5.** Create a hospitable place for new African immigrants and champion Edmonton as a place of choice for African immigrants. Establish and maintain connection with the City to facilitate the attraction of African immigrants to Edmonton.
- **6.** Seek and provide opportunities for economic development through collaboration and partnerships with other communities, agencies as well as public and private institutions



- T. Bumbeh

Our Generous Event Supporters:















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