

1. First “Uganda Koshien” and Kasumba Dennis

In the September issue, we introduced baseball in Uganda. This time, the Kids League was further developed and the first “Uganda Koshien” tournament was held with the support of JICA officials, Ashinaga Uganda, and the Japanese Association. Participating were six teams from Uganda. A fierce round-robin battle was held over four days starting December 8th. The glorious first winning team was the Ashinaga team!

To support the expenses for this event, crowdfunding was conducted with the cooperation of the Japanese Association and others. It is said that donations far exceeded the target amount of 500,000 yen. The Uganda Koshien website is scheduled to be updated for continued support so if you are interested, please take a look. I hope that this will be the 2nd and 3rd Uganda Koshien”.

One of the participating teams was led by Kasumba Dennis, who is currently playing for the Asahikawa Beastars of the Hokkaido Independent League. This was my first time meeting him, and it seems that he also traveled to the United States last month to practice baseball. He was coached by Yankees player Aaron Judge. Kasumba expressed his hope to become a professional player in Japan in the future.

Kasumba chose Japan as a place to pursue his career, in addition to meeting a Japanese coach in Uganda, Mr. Tanaka, and also because he felt that he could learn many things other than baseball techniques in Japan. You will be thoroughly taught etiquette, how to think about baseball, team play, and you will learn how to play baseball using your head. The lifestyle habits and language are different, and I think it’s often difficult to train as a baseball player while leaving your parents’ families behind in Kampala. I look forward to Kasumba’s future success.



Opening Ceremony



With Kasumba Dennis