



Nigeria's Davis Cup team after defeating Gabon on Wednesday.

Davis Cup

It's Nigeria vs Uganda

By Clement Nwankpa Jr.

“WE will be taking the matches one after the other. There are no big teams, every team here is capable of doing some havoc. We will just take them as they come”.

These were the words of NTF President Engr. Sani Ndanusa after the Nigerian team defeated Gabon in the first match.

If there is one match the Nigerians are condemned to win ahead of the expectedly crunchier ties against Senegal and Benin on Saturday and Sunday respectively, it is today's tie against Uganda.

Nigeria beat Uganda 3-0 in the Davis Cup play-off in San Marino last year and after the Ugandans lost their second

consecutive game to Senegal yesterday, not a few see then entering into today's match as obvious underdogs.

If the Nigerians neglect the potency of the fragile-looking Ugandans today, they could do so at their own peril.

Little Ronald Ssemenda of Uganda nearly caused a stir yesterday when he went ahead 4-0 in the second set before the giant Senegalese Daouda Ndiaye ultimately took the set 7-5. The final result was 6-2, 7-5 in Ndiaye's favour, but he couldn't have bargained for the tough fight his much smaller opponent presented in the second set.

For the Nigerians today, the fear of complacency could be the beginning of wisdom.

How would the technical crew file out their wards today?

For the first game against Gabon, Abdulmumuni Babalola and Jonathan Igbinovia were used while Sunday Jegede and Toyin Dairo were rested.

It's not likely the highly influential Igbinovia will be rested today in view of the bigger clashes ahead as the technical crew has decided to take every team seriously.

For today's match, Nigeria will be playing from behind after Benin and Senegal went top of the group with two points each, after yesterday's matches. Benin

beat Gabon while Senegal got the better of Uganda.

The high point of yesterday's games was Togo beating Djibouti 3-0 with the latter not salvaging a game in all the matches.

Togo's Komlavi Loglo beat Abdi Fatah Abolourhaman of Djibouti 6-0, 6-0 while Kwami Gakpo of Togo decimated Abdo Ali 6-0, 6-0.

The Togolese pair of Loglo and Gakpo will later beat Djibouti's Kader Mogueh and Ibse Willo by the same margin in the doubles match.

In today's other matches, Benin meets Senegal in Group B while Gabon rests.

The Group A pairing are as follows: Botswana vs Burkina Faso and Togo vs Mali.