

# Sports



## African Youth Games: Saumya to represent Kenya in Badminton

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**A** year ago, Saumya Gupta was forced to switch from playing lawn tennis to badminton.

She had suffered an injury and was not allowed to play.

Her switch to badminton, it turns out was fate. She has no regrets.

Barely a year later, the Agakhan Academy student is already making an impression in her new sport.

Saumya has been selected to represent Kenya in Badminton in the African Youth Games to be held in Algeria this month.

But her success has not come on a silver platter, as she revealed to Juniorspot. It has taken constant training and passion for the game.

"I train every day after school which is a bit hard," she said.

She also trains her juniors in the game, which helps her perfect her skills. "We have a small academy which was founded with the help of my coach," she said.

Last year, Saumya made it to the national badminton tournament and also qualified to join the East African tournament.

She played in the All Africa Badminton school championships in Uganda where the Kenyan girls' team emerged winners. "Kenyan girls came first. It is the first time they came in that position in the entire All Africa games," she said.

She shared her journey from being just a fan of the game to now a promising player.



Saumya Gupta plays at the All Africa Badminton school championships held in Uganda last year. The Kenyan girl's team emerged winner. PHOTO | EUNICE MURATHE



Saumya Gupta (left) with her team mates during the All Africa Badminton school championships held in Uganda last year. PHOTO | EUNICE MURATHE

"I progressed from the sub-county level to county and then to the nationals. It was very surprising for me as well because I actually started training after the regionals. At the nationals I managed to come in fourth position, which made me qual-

ify in team A," she told Juniorspot in an interview.

However, she was unable to attend due to school. "Luckily again, we came second in East Africa as the Kenyan team. From there we qualified for the All Africa games," she said.

The news left her ecstatic. "You feel this immense pride, not because you are representing Kenya but because you are playing against some of the best teams in the entire Africa," she said.

Every time she plays against teams from other countries, it gives her confidence and a sense of unity. "It is incredible how much sports can just connect you to people," she said.

Saumya who wants to be a Data Scientist is an all-rounder and was named the winner of the Award of Excellence for the Class of 2018.

FILL IN THE LETTERS TO INDICATE THE DICE BELOW THAT BELONGS TO EACH OF THE SPACES IN THE GRID



**Fresh Juice**

Teacher Martha gave her class pupils 25 glasses of fruit juice. Out of the 25 glasses she made, 11 were extracted from strawberry fruits, 6 from pineapple while 5 contained both strawberry and pineapple. The rest were just flavoured. Which diagram reflects the glasses correctly?