

Former Lady Saints Play for Titles in Africa

In 2005, Deolinda Ngulela and Flavia De Azinheira were proudly representing the Seward County Lady Saints as they captured Jayhawk West and Region VI titles, while leading the gals in green to a 5th place finish at the NJCAA National Tournament. Last week the two were representing even something larger as they tried to capture a championship for their country, Mozambique, in the 2013 African Championships in their hometown of Maputo.

Ngulela and De Azinheira led Mozambique to a perfect 5-0 record in group play of the tournament, giving them the top spot in the group for the knockout round. Mozambique blewout Egypt in their first contest 105-53 as Ngulela and De Azinheira combined for 12 points on 4 of 7 shooting from the field. Their second group game was another laugh as Mozambique defeated Zimbabwe 117-28 with the former Seward duo combining for 17 points and 8 rebounds in the win. Mozambique's defense locked down Algeria in their third game of the tournament, allowing just 34 points in a 67-34 win. Ngulela starred for Mozambique in their next group game, scoring 15 points and dishing out 3 assists in a 56-41 win over Ivory Coast. In their final group game, a battle of undefeateds with Senegal, Ngulela again was the main attraction, scoring a game high 21 points and distributing 5 assists as Mozambique won the group with a 77-61 victory.

Mozambique's quarterfinal matchup with Nigeria was a nailbiter with the home team coming out on top 77-74 to advance to the semis, thanks in large part to Ngulela who had a game high 7 assists to go along with 6 points in the win. It was another nip and tuck battle in the semis for Mozambique as they edged Camaroon behind 6 points, 6 steals, and 4 assists from the former Lady Saint Ngulela. Mozambique's championship game matchup with Angola was one for the ages. The two teams battled into overtime before Mozambique's dream run was ended with a 64-61 Angola win. In the loss Ngulela scored 8 points and added 6 assists and 5 steals while De Azinheira scored 2 points in 7 minutes of action.

Ngulela, who was the captain for the Mozambique squad, finished the tournament averaging 10 points per game and her 5.4 assists per contest were best in the tournament. De Azinheira played in 7 of the 8 games, averaging 8.3 minutes of court time per game. She averaged 3 points per game and shot 58% from the field.

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