

Sport | October 23, 2007

Junior athletics camp to be established in Uganda

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A JUNIOR athletics camp is to be established in Uganda under the auspices of A Running Start, a New York-based Non For Profit organization.

Karl Keirstead, the organization coordinator revealed the development to Daily Monitor yesterday, saying the camp would be established at Gombe Senior Secondary School. A Running Start Foundation has provided funding to the Standard High School camp in Bukwo for several years.

“The initial idea was to create a permanent training camp in Bukwo for the top elite runners in Uganda, to help them achieve financial gain and a better life. We feel that we’ve made tremendous progress, as measured by the international success,” Keirstead wrote via e-mail.

“Due to the success of our fundraising efforts in the United States, many individuals have been inspired by the achievements on senior level, and have donated to A Running Start Foundation, we now have the means to establish a junior project in Uganda. Coach Muhammad Abdallah, who has done a tremendous job in developing young talent will run the camp,” Keirstead added.

The camp to run from late December 2007 to late January 2008 will offer free housing, food and coaching to approximately 35 young female and male distance runners to be selected by the coach.

The intent is to offer positions in the camp to the best young middle and long distance runners in Uganda, regardless of their gender, home region or tribal affiliation. Former Olympian Julius Acon will visit the camp in January. Junior camps have been of great success in Kenya.