

Abuja-based pro golfer Umoh, slumps, dies during football match

By Eno-Abasi Sunday

FORMER Professional Golfers' Association of Nigeria (PGAN) Order of Merit leader and assistant resident professional at the IBB Golf and Country, Edet Michael Umoh, Sunday slumped and died in Abuja during a football match. He was aged 32.

He was, however, pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital he was rushed to for resuscitation.

Dominic Andrew, immediate past tournament director of the PGAN and an assistant resident professional at the club confirmed Umoh's death yesterday saying, "it is sad, but that is the truth we have to deal with now. Edet Umoh died on Sunday and the Professional Golfers Association see it as a very big loss for the body."

Born in 1982, Edet was Nigeria's number one golfer in 2011 and also represented the country at the Pre-qualifier of the World Cup of Golf in 2011 in Seri Selangor in Malaysia.

In 2010 he won the Tour Partner Championship at golf section of Ikoyi Club 1938, with a spectacular chip-

in from the Hole-18 bunker. Later that year, he won the PGA Championship at the IBB Golf Club and returned in 2011 to lift the President Cup.

Umoh, defending champion of Emir of Kano Golf championship, led Akwa State golf team to the 2011 National Sports Festival in Rivers State, where he got the state her first golf gold medals.

The late golfer is survived by a wife and four kids, (including a set of twins delivered on February 12 this year).

Umoh's death is coming barely four years after the then Nigeria's number one golfer, Ali Abdullahi and his predecessor, Christian Godfrey lost their lives in Paiko about 20 kilometers from Minna, the Niger State capital. Godfrey's caddy, simply identified as Ben, was also killed in the accident.

They trio were traveling to Minna, to play in the Minna Cantonment Championship when their Toyota Avalon car had a burst tyre and collided with a Peugeot 206 car. The driver and a passenger on the Peugeot 206 car sustained injuries and were rushed to the General Hospital in Minna, the Niger State Police Command had said.

The shock of the elite golfers death was just settling down when the Nigerian narrowly escaped being thrown into mourning mood two years later. This time, the *dramatis personae* Peter Akakasiaka, Tony Uduimoh and Victor Enaigbe escaped death by the skin of their teeth as they were returning from a tournament venue and two commercial motorcyclist suddenly veered into their lane suddenly. The players were coming from Otukpo Golf and Country Club, Benue State, where they took part in the 2012 season opener.

Akakasiaka and Uduimoh, a former leader of the Professional Golfers Association of Nigeria (PGAN) and resident professional at the Benin Club (golf section), Edo State are members of the senior tour, while Enaigbe plays in the regular tour.

As at press time, the PGAN was yet to issue a formal statement regarding the incident, maintaining that that would be done after they had visited to condole the family.

Umoh's professional colleagues and friends have been mourning his shock exit on the social media where they extolled his virtues and qualities.