



# Black Cats Football Academy: July Report 2026

# Introduction

July 2026 was a busy and successful month for Blackcats Football Academy, with significant progress in football development, competitive matches, player participation, and community engagement.

The highlight of the month was the successful hosting of the Moving Mountains Cup – Second Edition, which brought together young footballers from different parts of Embu County. The academy also continued participating in the County and Sub- County Leagues while maintaining regular training sessions across all age categories.



## 2. Moving Mountains Cup – Second Edition

The Moving Mountains Cup Second Edition was successfully held in July and was one of the major highlights of the month.

A total of 16 teams participated in the tournament:

- 6 Under-13 Boys teams
- 6 Under-15 Boys teams
- 4 Girls teams

The tournament attracted teams from different parts of Embu County, including:

- Manyatta
- Runyenjes
- Mbeere North
- Mbeere South

The tournament also provided an opportunity for International and cultural exchange. Harton Academy participated as a guest, with 10 Year 13 Sixth Form students taking part in the tournament activities.

### Tournament Results

#### Under-13 Boys

- Champions: All Saints Embu School
- Runners-up: Blackcats Football Academy

#### Under-15 Boys

- Champions: All Saints Embu School
- Runners-up: Blackcats Football Academy

#### Girls

- Champions: Blackcats Football Academy

A particularly important achievement was seeing the All Saints Embu School players, who are former/current Blackcats players benefiting from education scholarships, compete successfully in the tournament. This demonstrates the academy's commitment to combining football development with education and personal development.

The tournament provided the players with valuable exposure, competition, teamwork, discipline, and an opportunity to interact with other young footballers from across the county.



# 3. County League Performance

Blackcats continued its participation in the County League during July.

| Opponent | Result   |
|----------|----------|
| Ewasco   | Lost 2–3 |
| Kirimari | Won 2–1  |
| Kianjuki | Lost 0–1 |

The team showed competitive improvement and resilience, particularly in the victory against Kirimari.



# 4. Sub-County League Performance

Our development team continued to gain valuable match experience in the Sub-County League.

| Opponent  | Result   |
|-----------|----------|
| Mugoya    | Lost 1–3 |
| Gatunduri | Won 2–1  |
| Jamia     | Won 2–1  |

The Sub-County team recorded two victories and one defeat, showing positive progress and improved competitiveness.



# 5. Girls County League Performance

The Blackcats girls' team continued to perform well in the Girls County League.

| Opponent     | Result   |
|--------------|----------|
| JNNP         | Won 2–1  |
| Dumen Orange | Drew 0–0 |

The girls continued to demonstrate good teamwork, determination, and competitive spirit. Their success was further highlighted by winning the girls' category of the Moving Mountains Cup.



## 6. Training and Practice

Regular training sessions continued throughout July, with practice held from Monday to Saturday.

The turnout was encouraging across all age categories. Players continued working on their:

|                                                                                   |                            |                                                                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Technical skills           |  | Tactical understanding   |
|  | Physical fitness           |  | Ball control and passing |
|  | Teamwork and communication |  | Match preparation        |
|  | Discipline and confidence  |                                                                                   |                          |

The consistent attendance demonstrates the commitment of the players and parents to the academy's development programme.

## 7. Volunteer Coaches and Special Training



Blackcats was privileged to have Lawrence from the USA volunteering his time to train the senior team. His involvement provided the senior players with additional coaching, experience, and exposure to different training approaches.

The academy also benefited from Rowan, who conducted yoga sessions across all categories. The yoga sessions supported players' flexibility, mobility, recovery, body awareness, and overall physical wellbeing.

These volunteer contributions added significant value to the academy's player development programme.

## 8. Challenges

Despite the positive achievements during July, the academy continues to face some challenges.



### Lack of Playing Boots

The major challenge affecting players across all age categories is a shortage of suitable playing boots.



### Impact on Performance

Some players do not have proper football footwear, which affects their comfort, safety, and ability to train and compete effectively.

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## 9. Key Achievements for July

The major achievements during the month included:

1. Successfully hosting the Moving Mountains Cup Second Edition.
2. Bringing together 16 teams from different parts of Embu County.
3. Hosting 10 Harton Academy Year 13 Sixth Form students as guests.
4. Blackcats Girls winning the Moving Mountains Cup girls' category.
5. Blackcats U13 and U15 teams finishing as runners-up.
6. Continued participation in the County and Sub-County Leagues.
7. Good training attendance across all age categories.
8. Receiving volunteer coaching support from Lawrence from the USA.
9. Introducing yoga sessions through Rowan.
10. Continuing to combine football development with education and player welfare.

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## 10. Conclusion

July 2026 was a successful and productive month for Blackcats Football Academy. The success of the Moving Mountains Cup demonstrated the academy's growing ability to bring together young footballers from across Embu County while creating opportunities for competition, friendship, exposure, and personal development.

The achievements of the players at All Saints Embu School also demonstrate the importance of investing in both football and education. The academy remains committed to nurturing young talent, developing responsible young people, and providing opportunities that can positively influence their future.