



KYISA GAMES REPORT

April, 2023



DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, YOUTH AFFAIRS, GENDER, CULTURE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The report on preparation and participation of the Homa Bay County Under 23 Football Teams in the eighth edition of the Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association Games held in Chuka, Tharaka Nithi County from 23rd to 29th April 2023

By Collins Kalee, Head of Teams' Technical Staff

1.0. Introduction



CS Ababu Namwamba arrives for the official opening of the KYISA Games 2023 at the Kirubia Stadium, Chuka, flanked by Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki (left) and Collins Kalee

Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association (KYISA) is one of the three inter-county sports organizing associations founded and run within the structure of devolution. Other associations are Kenya Inter County Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) and County Assemblies Forums Sports Association (CAFSA). Whereas the latter two are primarily for staff under the respective jurisdictions, KYISA is for youth aged between 18 and 23 from the respective counties assembled to compete in football, volleyball, and basketball. The participating youths must be of raw talent and should not have been playing in any semi or full professional leagues locally or internationally.

The theme for this year's edition, hosted in Chuka Town in Tharaka Nithi County was Talanta Mashinani, a clarion call for all stakeholders to identify, harness and promote the sporting talents right from the grassroots, in line with the Kenya Kwanza philosophy of Bottom Up socioeconomic model. This was also the eighth and arguably the most attended edition, having attracted 33 counties competing in the three disciplines.

To emphasize the importance of the KYISA Games, no one less than the Cabinet Secretary for Sports Hon Ababu Namwamba presided over the official opening of the games at the Kirubia Stadium where he outlined the government's agenda as regards sports. He revealed that the national government was looking into sporting activities like the KYISA Games to better enhance the sporting prowess of the country and to not only identify the talents but to position the youth strategically to gainfully earn from their talents and skills. This, he added, is the idea behind the Talanta Hela initiative.

Homa Bay County was participating in these games for the first time, and what a way to make a debut appearance! The male team went all the way and won the tournament while the females bowed out in the quarter-finals.

2.0. The Preparations

2.1. The Trials

When we got invited to participate in the KYISA Games 2023, we first sought the cabinet's approval since this was not initially in the county government's budget for this fiscal year. We pitched our case through the department's CECM Hon Sarah Malit. Once the cabinet gave us the go-ahead, the Department set out to thorough preparations.

To get the right team, the Department conducted a two-day football and netball trial on the 1st and 2nd of April 2023 at the Homa Bay School. Sports trials are used as the way that clubs and teams find their talent. A record of 71 prospects turned up to be considered in football. Most of the youth who turned up are those who took part in the Genowa Governor's Cup and some already ply their trade with sports clubs participating in the respective regional leagues

The trials delved into the following traits

Skill: A natural ability with the ball, the *potential* to improve, and a willingness to learn and be coached

Adaptability: The scouts delved into the prospects' ability to adapt to difficult situations and adjust their style of play with little notice.

Communication: The prospects had the task of proving their ability to converse clearly and have a very open form of communication

Resilience: About common sporting realities like injuries, periods of low performance, receiving constructive criticism, and confronting personal challenges, resilience is an absolute must-have quality to reach your full potential as an athlete, and so those who satisfied the scouts in this regard cut the grade

Leadership: The prospects had to display their leadership acumen, adaptation to team dynamics, and respect for the chain of command

Character: Their attitude, ability to take constructive criticism, being realistic about their athletic standing, and listening to people



Group photo of those who qualified at the trials

The trials yielded three teams: 2 football teams of 31 and 20 players, and one netball team of 10 players. The team of 31 players – aged 25 and below – was to be considered for county employees, and the team of 20, aged 23 and below, were to represent the County at the oncoming KYISA Tournament in Chuka, Tharaka Nithi County from 23rd to 29th April 2023

2.2. Pre-Tournament Camp

B both sets of teams entered a week-long training camp on Monday 17th April as they began technical and tactical preparations for the tournament. They were accommodated at the Ruma Hotel for males and Amboss Hotel for Ladies

While admitting the 36 players into the camp at Homa Bay High School, Sports CECM Sarah Malit implored them to put their best foot forward in the training to stand a better chance of returning with a maiden team trophy. "The county government is investing in sports talent and this will be the first team we are fully preparing. We want a good start, to top the charts, just like we aim to do the same in other sectors."



Boys' team at a training session at the Homa Bay High School grounds

While in the training camp, the boys got a chance to play an intensive friendly match with the Kenya Prisons senior team.

Benard Otieno's well-drilled shot into the far bottom made all the difference between the sides in a tense and cagey match that was everything but friendly. After a brief exchange of passes between him and compatriot Churchill Sero, Benard created an inch of space for himself just inside the area before shooting low beyond the reach of the Correctional Officers' goalkeeper. The team used this match to test themselves and fill a few gaps from their training as they aimed for glory at the tournament. "It was a good warm-up match and we now know a few areas we need to fix. We are good to go," enthused George 'Sonko' Ouma, the team's head coach.

2.3. The Travel and Traveling Party

The teams and the technical staff left for Chuka on the dawn of Saturday 22nd April 2023 aboard a Sameta High School bus. After a long and tiresome journey, the team arrived safely in Chuka shortly after 10 pm. The Boys' team was accommodated at Chuka Boys High School while the Ladies' team was hosted at Chuka Girls High School. The technical team and the staff sought accommodation at Chuka Legacy Hotel and the Chuka County Resort.

The following are the schedules of all those who traveled.

Table 1: Boys' Football Team

No.	Name	ID.No.
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1.	Agrey Onyango Arito	38359539
2.	Otieno Steve	Passport No: A2380199
3.	Lawi Obonyo Goro	42245065
4.	Ochogo Eddy Otieno	Passport No: A2380200
5.	Mboya Michael Oyugi	Passport No: A2380161
6.	Elly Otieno	40801951
7.	Rasto Otieno Omola	40057818
8.	Magero Bruce Ochieng	
9.	Brian Odhiambo Odindo	39464870
10.	Oyona Bryton Otieno	41340526
11.	Milton Juma Odhiambo	40245745
12.	John Calvince Odhiambo	40324367
13.	Churchil Onyango Sero	40914508
14.	Justus Ochieng	40536204
15.	Charles Omondi Owuor	39394857
16.	Eddy Basil Oloo	37898022
17.	Okumu Benard Otieno	
18.	John Odewa Okumu	
19.	Reaggy Odhiambo	40929736
20.	Stephene Omondi Odongo	40696623
21.	George Ouma	Head Coach
22.	Robert Ouko	Assistant Head Coach

Table 2: Girls' Football Team

No.	Name	ID/No.
1.	Synthia Achieng Ouma	40661653
2.	Ochieng Alvina Adhiambo	42075678
3.	Quinta Adhiambo	39677552
4.	Flovian Anyango Onjula	40909462
5.	Iddah Juma	40962640
6.	Brenda Adhiambo Oduogo	38364839
7.	Jacklyn Amondi	40965079
8.	Vivian Anyango	40635443
9.	Maryanne Awuor Noo	41162597
10.	Lydia Achieng	39677315
11.	Yasmin Mwahe Khalid	40379972
12.	Violet Awuor	39933391
13.	Veneser Achieng Nyamache	41646088
14.	Shaly Awuor Omenda	41944521
15.	Mackline Anyango Nyakundi	37607844
16.	Eunice Achieng Opiyo	42239462
17.	Otieno Stephany Awino	42330225
18.	Peter Scovia Carolyn	42364652
19.	Meroline Atieno	Team Matron

20	Maurice Ouma	Head Coach
21	Godfrey Otieno	Assistant Coach

Table 3: Staff

No.	Name	Designation
1	Dr. John Agili	CECM
2.	Elly Nyiero	Chief Officer
3	Silas Rabah	Director Youth Affairs
4	Collins Kalee	D/Director Sports
5	Victor Opiyo	Sports Officer
6	Lilian Omwenga	Sports Officer
7	Lawrence Okomo	Communications Officer
8	Livone Molo	Communications Officer
9	Brian Nyayal	Team Doctor
10	Lavender Risper	Assistant Team Doctor

3.0. The Games

3.1. The Games' Draw



Collins Kalee opens the lot that placed Homa Bay male team in Group C

The Games' draw was held on Sunday, 23rd April 2023 at the Chuka Igamang'ombe CDF Offices in Chuka Town. Homa Bay County had to navigate a pool containing Kilifi, Meru, Mandera, and Wajir in Group C. Mandera came out of the draw as the top seed before Kalee Collins picked for Homa Bay at third. Kilifi, last year's semi-finalists, and neighboring Meru are the other top-rated teams in the group.

In the other pooling host Tharaka Nithi, Narok, Kakamega, Trans Nzoia, and Makueni make up Group A while defending champions Nakuru will have to battle Busia, Siaya, and Embu. Homa Bay neighbors Migori face Garisa, Samburu, and Nyandarua in the last group.



Ladies coach Maurice Kaidot picks the lot

In the ladies' draw, Homa Bay County all but secured a bye to the quarter-finals but will have to face neighboring Siaya for Group D bragging rights and for placement into the quarters.

The men's team was to play their matches at Ikuu Boys High School while the ladies' will play at Chuka University.

Below was the full draw at the KYISA Games 2023.

Football Men

Group A: Tharaka Nithi, Narok, Kakamega, Trans Nzoia, Makueni

Group B: Nakuru, Busia, Elgeyo Marakwet, Embu, Siaya

Group C: Mandera, Kilifi, Homa Bay, Meru, Wajir

Group D: Nyandarua, Migori, Garisa, Samburu

Football Ladies

Group A: Tharaka Nithi, Kilifi, Nyandarua

Group B: Kakamega, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet

Group C: Makueni, Migori, Narok

Group D: Homa Bay, Siaya

3.2. The Opening Ceremony



Homa Bay County Teams at a march pass during the official opening ceremony

Youth Affairs, Sports and The Arts Cabinet Secretary Hon Ababu Namwamba opened the eighth edition of the Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association games at the Kirubia Stadium, Chuka Tharaka Nithi County on Monday 24th April 2023



At a colorful event also graced by the host governor HE Muthomi Njuki, Sports PS Jonathan Mweke, National Assembly Sports Committee Chair Dan Wanyama, MP Mumias West, MPs Kareke Mbiuki and Gitonga Murangura of Maara and Tharaka respectively, and host of other senior national and county government officials, the CS used the occasion to rally county governments to support the national government's program of Talanta Hela that seeks to make youth gainfully earn from their sporting and creative talents.

The Homa Bay teams, appearing for the first time, were treated to wild cheers from the packed stadium as they made their way in front of the main dais during the teams' match passes



3.3. The Match Reports



The starting lineup together with Chief Officer Mr. Oyier and Youth Affairs Director Silas Raba, just before the match against Meru at Ikuu High School

Homa Bay 2 – 0 Meru



It was an emphatic start for Homa Bay

Churchill 'Ochilo' Sero's brace was enough for Homa Bay County to overcome a stubborn Meru County side in their opening match

Homa Bay came out of the blocks quicker, before Churchill gave a glimpse of what he had in store when his second-minute shot almost went in but for the alertness of Clinton Njagi in the Meru goal. There was not to be a long wait as shortly after, he beat Meru's offside trap before looping over the onrushing Meru keeper into an empty net.

Meru almost had a lifeline when Homa Bay's Reagy Odhiambo was adjudged to have handled in the area but Noordin Mutembei fired wide.

The second half began as a replica of the first, Ochilo getting a yard of space near the edge before firing timidly low but Clinton Njagi allowed the shot to squirm past him.

Despite a late rally by the mountaineers, Homa Bay County kept their nerves to see off the victory, capping a memorable start to a tournament they are making their debut appearance

Homa Bay 0 – 0 Kilifi



Fans cheer as they follow the Homa Bay team in action

Homa Bay County was unable to overcome a resolute Kilifi County side in the teams' second match played this morning.

After a profligate start, Homa Bay pieced their act together and found their rhythm but it was Kilifi that had the first open chance of the game when Ali Matano's mazy run almost resulted in a goal with Lawi Obonyo came to the Lakers' rescue.

The match then degenerated into hard and flying tackles, both teams becoming more physical as the first half wore on.

Homa Bay's profligacy was all the more aching, and they almost paid for it were Lawi Obonyo not composed enough to prevent the goal from crossing the line after a goal-mouth melee. Bernard Otieno and Bruce Ochieng came close to Homa Bay.

Homa Bay 3 – 0 Mandera



Homa Bay County made their dominance count when they outclassed an ambitious Mandera side 3-0 to all but qualify for quarters.

After a dour first half with no clear-cut chances, substitute Milton 'Ayoze' Juma's low drive to the far post finally broke the Mandera resilience before Bernard Otieno unleashed a thunderbolt 20 yards out once Mandera failed to clear from a left-wing set piece.

Mandera would then up their game, now more prudent with time but it counted for nothing, Bernard Otieno picking the ball from midfield before his solo run and selfless pass set up another substitute in Rasto Otieno to bundle home from close range.

The win puts Homa Bay County in the driving seat with seven points from three games. They need a draw to confirm qualification but a win against Wajir in their next match will see them top the group.

Homa Bay 5 – 0 Wajir



Churchill 'Ochilo' Sero celebrating a goal. He scored a double in this match

The two-all draw result between Meru and Kilifi just before this game meant that Homa Bay was going into their last match with Mandera as Group C winners regardless of the outcome.

But if North Easterners thought Homa Bay was going to relent, they were in for a rude shock. A double each from Churchill 'Ochilo' Sero and Rasto Otieno, and a screamer from full-back Brighton Amoo put them to the sword in an activity-packed game played amid heavy Tharaka downpour.

'Ochilo' was quicker to the ball to meet Bruce Ochieng's through ball and opened the scores before Bruce once again looped for Rasto Otieno to finish with aplomb. Rasto then added his tally from another loop, now from Michael 'Oga' Oyugi, to make it a first half to forget for Wajir.

The second half was even finer for the Lakers, Bruce Ochieng completing his hat-trick of assists when he played in Ochilo to score his second brace of the tournament.

A slippery turf and a drenching atmosphere conspired to almost gift Wajir a goal when Lawi Obonyo let a timid shot fly past him to the side-netting. Wajir rued that chance when Brighton Amoo fired a screamer from a dead ball outside the area.

Homa Bay finish their group games with a near-perfect record, winning three and drawing one, all while keeping clean sheets and scoring ten.

Ladies Football



Ladies Team with CECM Dr. Agili(center in checked) and other officials including Lilian Omwenga(left) and Silas Rabah(right)

Homa Bay 1 – 0 Siaya



Match Captain Brenda and teammates during the Siaya game

Homa Bay County Ladies beat Siaya 1-0 to top two-team group

This was meant to be a friendly derby by all dimensions but with bragging rights up for grabs, any neighborliness was thrown out immediately after the teams walked onto the Chuka University grounds.

A cagey match on a muddy surface came to life when Carol Akinyi pushed the ball into her net to gift Homa Bay victory on a platter.

Homa Bay 2 – 4 Kakamega (AET)



An action-packed first half, a cagey second half, and a race with time all played a part as Homa Bay twice let the lead slip in the tournament's football ladies' quarter-final played at Kibugua Grounds, Chuka.

Skipper Yasmin Mwahekhalid sent Kakamega's keeper the wrong way from the spot but a calamitous defending allowed Kakamega to equalize shortly after. Venessa Nyamachi then thought she had won it for Genowa Ladies when she lashed home from the edge however Nafula Nisina had other ideas, canceling it out with her fortuitous strike.

Kakamega then got a quick double in extra time to knock Homa Bay Ladies out of the tournament

3.4. The Run to the Tittle

Quarter Finals: Homa Bay 1 – 0 Trans Nzoia

Milton 'Ayoze' Juma's delicious half-volley in the second half of extra time was enough to propel Genowa Boys into the semi-final in the ongoing KYISA Games in Chuka.

Trans Nzoia County were made to dearly pay for their time-wasting antics from the onset, with a number of them dropping to the turf even on the slightest of challenges from Homa Bay. They however came close to taking the initiative of the steamy tie when Jack Wanyama's raffle was parried over the bar by Brian 'Matasi' Odhiambo.

The second half saw limited activity but a tactical change from the Homa Bay bench, allowing Brighton Amoo to dictate midfield almost bore fruit when his squared pass to Churchill 'Ochilo' Sero' went agonizingly close.

With minutes running out and both teams already planning for post-match penalties, Ayoze collected a loose ball just as Trans Nzoia were preparing their version of super sub. He then sent a screamer beyond the full stretch of the goalkeeper to sparkle a wild celebration from Homa Bay fans and the watching neutrals.

Semi-Finals: Homa Bay 1 – 1 Busia AET

(Homa Bay wins 3-2 on Penalties)

Skipper Eddie Basil converted the decisive penalty and put Genowa Boys just a match away from lifting the KYISA Cup on this debut appearance.

Busia County was the first to score when Anthony Okoth converted into his net under pressure from Barry Mukhua. They almost added another early in the second half but Lawi Obonyo stretched to full length and punched wide.

It was almost all lost for Homa Bay but Bernard Otieno left Busia's keeper with no chance from the spot after their defender handled in the area. It was too late but much enough to send the game into extra time. Had Churchill 'Ochilo' Sero applied some power and skill to his shot after Reagy Odhiambo's tidy work he would have prevented the tense shootout that followed.

Lawi Obonyo's heroics between the sticks came in handy, saving two penalties, thus allowing skipper Eddie to have the final say in this historic fixture, winning it 3-2.

How the Sports Department Built Conquerors



Boys' team head coach George 'Sonko' Ouma. He came in handy and steered the team to glory in Chuka

After the Department convinced the cabinet to approve Homa Bay County's participation in the KYISA Games, it set out to build a team that would leave a mark, a legacy.

As with everything that we do, we set out this venture to be as participatory as much as it was professional. With no budget other than the Games', the Department rallied friends within the game to come and help conduct free and fair trials to get the right team, and the friends responded; not only did they come, but they also came with the kind of resourcefulness the county has ever seen when it comes to sports. For two days, they camped at Homa Bay High School, scouting and vetting players who had shown interest to join the team, and out of it, a formidable team was formed - with only one purpose - to go conquer the country.

In George 'Sonko' Ouma and Robert 'Nasri' Ouko, the Department had an astute pair of coaches who fear no opponent. But their work was made lighter with Eddie Basil in central defense, Brighton Amoo in fullback, Reagy Odhiambo and Charles 'Bando' Omondi marshaling the midfield, and Churchill 'Ochilo' Sero, Bernard Otieno and Milton 'Ayoze' Juma' on the offensive to mention but a few.

The team was already bullish as soon as Homa Bay kicked the first ball in the opening 2-0 win over Meru County. The team would go on to score 10 in group stages, amassing the same number of points while keeping four clean sheets in the process. It was a tidy return from a team making its first appearance on this stage.

Homa Bay County would go on to achieve the impossible on its debut appearance on a national stage.

IT IS HOME!



Director Silas Rabah carries match hero Brighton Amoo shoulder high as Homa Bay broke into wild celebrations at the final whistle

Homa Bay County 0-0 Migori County AET

(Homa Bay County wins 3-0 on post-match penalties)



CECM Dr. John Agili, Hon Billy and Mr. Elly Nyiero cheer the team as it gets ready for the finals

Genowa Boys are the champions of the eighth edition of Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association (KYISA) Games after overcoming neighbors Migori County in a tense match played at a fully-packed 20-thousand seater Kirubia Stadium, Chuka, Tharaka Nithi County.



Homa Bay (left) and Migori teams before the kick-off at the Kirubia Stadium, Chuka

The much anticipated Lakers Derby kicked off on a high note, both teams creating fledgling chances, besides a midfield duel in the mold of a World Cup encounter. Rasto Otieno thought he had opened the scores for Homa Bay when his angled shot from the right flank laced the bar on its way out. Milton 'Ayoze' Juma' also saw his shot from the area go agonizingly wide with what was the last kick of a busy first half.

Both keepers were kept active by shots from a distance as respective defenses kept their resoluteness.

It was all square after a wearisome 120 minutes; post-match penalties thus were the only way out to decide who between the Lakers would come on top.



Captain Eddy Basil receiving the trophy from the Chief Guest, H.E Nyaga Mwaisraeli, Deputy Governor Tharaka Nithi County

Brighton Amoo sent Stephen Odero to the Driers to win it for Homa Bay County in this their first appearance in these games.

3.5. The Homecoming



A heroic entry back home

A After the teams' heroics in Chuka, it was now time to come back home, glory in hand and joy in the air. The team arrived in Homa Bay County by midday Sunday 30th April to a grand reception, a victory parade, and a luncheon organized by H.E Gladys Wanga, CBS Governor Homa Bay County.

From Imbo in Homa Bay East Ward, the team, on top of the open-top bus, and in a convoy containing the governor's motorcade, the team snail-drove through the Rongo-Homabay highway, Rodi, Kodoyo

Junction, into the town center, through Kisumu highway before making a turn to Bank Road and the governor's office.

The governor then formally received the trophy from the boys' team captain Eddy Basil. This was followed by lunch in the teams' honor where the governor further awarded the team a cash award of KES 220,000



Captain Eddy Basil handing over the trophy to the governor

4.0. Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations

The KYISA Games not only seek to allow our youth players to express their talents but also provides a platform to aim higher and achieve more.

There were Kenya Academy of Sports scouts as well as the national technical committee on Sports who did the scouting to link the prospects to KAS. Of our players, the following made the grade:

1. Eddy Basil
2. Brighton Onyona
3. Reagy Odhiambo
4. Lawi Obonyo
5. Yasmin Mwahekalid

The biggest challenge the team encountered was all to do with accommodation and the social amenities, including food, at their disposal. The organization of KYISA Games had provided for teams

to be accommodated in the various public primary and secondary schools within the Chuka Igamang'ombe constituency but failed to provide adequate utilities to make the stay there comfortable for the participants. This resulted in illnesses of various kinds, including pneumonia, stomach upsets, and flu, in return hampering the productivity of the players as they spend half of their time on treatment tables.

It is recommended that the county be allowed to source for its accommodation that would be comfortable and affordable to the team.

To expand on the potential of what Homa Bay can achieve in sports, we must be sending squads for all the disciplines allowed in any inter-county tournament.

There is need for a better and earlier preparation besides proper investment into the ladies' team.

5.0. Acknowledgments and Conclusions

This of course will go down as one of most memorable outings Homa Bay County has ever had, in terms of sports. It has indeed placed Homa Bay among the top, and regardless of what the future results will be, KYISA Games 2023 is already etched into folklore.

Special gratitude to Governor Gladys Wanga for not only agreeing to send out the team but also for being with them in every walk of it. The resources provided by the county government would have come in if she did not approve of them.

Gratitude also to Dr. John Agili for his magnanimity to stand as the head of the delegation in the absence of Hon. Sarah Malit. Waziri was not just our head but was the team's top fan and a cheerleader.

But the biggest gratitude goes to all the players and their coaches. On their feet, we rested our hope for glory, and true to their promise, they delivered. It has been a rollercoaster of a journey and we cannot way for more glory

