

THE PRESS

 <https://za.7eliteacademy.com/>

 050 030 2942

 mike.darby@7eliteacademy.com



Player Spotlight

Our Player Spotlight is on Kmi Canham. Kmi joined 7 Elite shortly after finishing high school and is one of our interns this year while studying toward his Commerce degree at Stadio University.

A strong, quick forward, he's excited for the season ahead — and we're proud to have this talented young man representing us on and off the pitch!



Welcome to Our New Head Coach

We're absolutely thrilled to officially welcome Coach Alberto Garcia to our academy, all the way from Badajoz, Spain 🇪🇸

From the moment he stepped onto the pitch, his presence has been felt. In just a few days, he's already made a powerful impression both on and off the field. As a demanding, tactically sharp A-Licence coach, Alberto brings intensity, structure, and a deep understanding of the modern game. His sessions are detailed, purposeful, and challenging — and the boys have responded immediately. The energy is higher, the focus is sharper, and the standard has lifted. Alberto's playing journey adds even more depth to what he brings to our environment. He spent time at Fleetwood Town FC, one of our valued partner clubs, as well as with Blackpool Under-18s. During his development years, he competed against elite talents such as Marcus Rashford, Trent Alexander-Arnold, and Joe Gomez — experiences that gave him firsthand insight into the level required to succeed at the top.

He understands the sacrifices, discipline, and mentality it takes to pursue professional football because he's lived it. And now, he's channeling that experience into developing the next generation.

We're incredibly excited for what's ahead with Coach Alberto leading from the front. The standard has been set — and we're only just getting started.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rygate Tournament

25 March 2026

This U21 tournament runs from 25-29 March at the Johnston Road Sports Complex. All our boys will be competing, and we'd love to see parents, friends, and supporters there backing the team all the way.

Kronendal 125th Birthday

28 FEB 2026

Kronendal Primary School, the oldest and most well-known school in Hout Bay, is celebrating its 125th anniversary, with our players set to host a series of challenges at the event.



USA TOUR



* February was dominated by our tour to the USA, where our partnership with 7 Elite Academy enabled us to compete in both the 7 Elite International Tournament in St George, Utah, and the Mayor's Cup in Las Vegas — two prestigious tournaments featuring nearly 1,500 teams combined.

On 3 February, 17 boys aged 15 to 18, along with two coaches, boarded a flight to Las Vegas via Atlanta. Just over two weeks later, we returned home tired but proud, having played excellent football on world-class pitches. The boys acquitted themselves admirably, producing impressive performances that included a narrow 2-1 loss to Colorado Rapids, a hard-fought 2-2 draw against ASIJ Mustangs from Japan, and three emphatic victories.

Four of our players attracted interest from scouts and university representatives, reinforcing our commitment to creating meaningful pathways for our young men.

Off the field, highlights included visits to Snow Canyon State Park and the Grand Canyon, traditional outlet mall shopping trips, and an insightful tour of Utah Tech University — an NCAA Division I institution where the head coach generously spent valuable time with our group.

We learned invaluable lessons throughout the tour that will stand us in good stead for our return in 2027.

In their own words...

Jesse

The USA tour was incredibly enjoyable. I loved experiencing a different way of life in America and visiting new places. Playing the matches was a highlight, especially competing against strong international teams. Visiting a college campus was also exciting, as it gave me insight into what life would be like as a Division I student-athlete in the US.

Udo

This trip was an incredible experience that not many people can say they've had. I enjoyed every moment, largely because of the positive atmosphere shared with my teammates and coaches. We played very good football throughout the tour and were unfortunate with some of the results, but football isn't always fair. We may not always win, but we can always make sure we deserve to. The off-field activities were just as enjoyable and added to the overall experience. Overall, I truly loved the trip, and I'm confident that if we go again, we'll come back with something to show for it.



Matthew

On the 3rd of February I left Cape Town to go on a trip to the United States for 2 football tournaments. The whole trip lasted about two weeks and it was such a great experience and a really exciting opportunity. We played against strong teams, including a team from Japan and England. Each training session was intense and pushed the team to improve in every game. Over the course of the tournament it was a great chance for the players in the team to get to know one another. Off the pitch, I also got to explore new places, try different foods, and experience a bit of American culture. Overall, it was an unforgettable trip!

MJ

The USA tour was a very exciting experience, and the football there was exceptional. We had the opportunity to see the playing styles of different nations, including Japan, the USA, and the UK. I believe it was valuable for all of us to be in that environment, as it pushed us to adapt and grow. As a team, we played excellent football because we were focused on the success of the group rather than individual glory.

We also visited several attractions and experienced different cultures across America. From the Grand Canyon and the Las Vegas Strip to the mountains in Utah, it was an incredible experience for all of us. I feel confident that this trip will remain a lasting memory for everyone involved.

Philippe

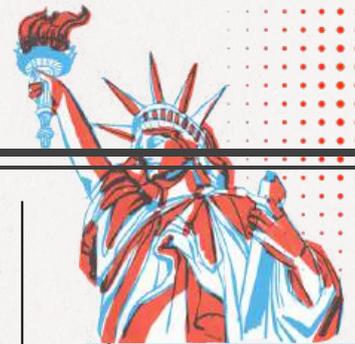
The USA Tour was a great way of experiencing American culture on and off the field. As a team we were able to see and compete against American teams, which allowed us to get a glimpse of what football may be looking like for some of us playing and studying in the USA in the future. Additionally we were able to meet our UK-based 7 Elite branch, which gave us a direct insight to what the academy is all about and how it is run.

Atang

My trip to America and the tour as a whole has been nothing but a wonderful and eye-opening experience — not only for me, but for the guys as well who I had the privilege of sharing these moments with. Even though we unfortunately didn't manage to come home with the trophy, we learned from each other, grew together, and played great football.

Aside from the football itself, finally seeing America for what it truly is was unforgettable. Exploring iconic places like Las Vegas, witnessing the beauty of the Fountains of Bellagio, and experiencing the breathtaking landscapes of Utah — especially Snow Canyon State Park — was nothing short of awe-inspiring.

This tour wasn't just about results; it was about growth, brotherhood, and perspective. Getting to see people our age around the world and compete with them for the same glory was a great learning curve for us. It allowed us to compare where we currently stand and where we have to improve as individuals and as a team. And that's something we'll carry with us long after our careers.



ELITE 7:

Every year, we take on our Annual Challenge—a tradition designed to go beyond football and into real-life experiences. It's our way of making sure the journey is just as meaningful as the destination. This challenge is especially important for our international players, giving them the opportunity to experience the very best that Cape Town has to offer. Throughout the year, we'll explore iconic locations like Robben Island, the legendary DHL Stadium, the heights of Table Mountain, the breathtaking views of Chapman's Peak, the natural beauty of Boulders Beach, and the coastal energy of Camps Bay.

THE ELITE

