

# sports



LEFT: The Eastland Centre team that is travelling to Spain. BELOW: Edward Chahilu at his best juggling a ball. (PHOTOS: ERICK OCHIENG / STANDARD)

# Soccer star to play in Spain

BY ERICK OCHIENG'

Edward Chahilu will take a plane to Madrid, Spain, with his teammates to participate in a world event this month.

The Standard Three pupil at St John's Primary School in Kaloleni, Nairobi, is delighted and he looks forward to leading his squad to the Asociación Deporte ala Cultura Desarrollo championship which he is optimistic they will win.

The eight-year-old is the youngest in the Under-13 boys team that trains during weekends at Ofafa Jericho grounds.

"I am so happy I will have the opportunity to meet with boys from the Etoo Foundation of Cameroon, Real Madrid and Atletico Stars," Chahilu, who wants to be a teacher like his uncle, told *Generation Next*.

Coach Kevin Obware included Edward in the squad due to his football prowess.

"He can juggle and do everything with the ball compared to older boys. He is one of the most dependable players and will be making the first 11 in Spain," the coach

said.

The young footballer hopes to meet his role model Brazilian Ronaldinho someday.

His local hero is Denis Oliech and he says he was at the Coca Cola stadium last week when Kenya played Tunisia.

"I was sad that Kenya lost but I was happy Oliech gave us a goal," says Edward.

He is grateful that his parents and teachers support his interest in sport.

Edward likes chicken and ugali and his favourite subject is mathematics.

His team, Eastlands Centre, which is based in Uhuru estate, Nairobi, landed the global invite after their project manager wrote an award-winning essay to the Spanish foundation under the Strathmore Educational Trust.

While in Madrid, Edward will also visit museums, cathedrals and cultural centres as well as mingle with Real Madrid and Atletico Stars.

