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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

Academy Tour 2007s Riga Cup

A squad made up of U12 and U13 players travelled to Latvia to take part in the Riga Cup. The opposition for the tournament came from countries such as Latvia, Portugal, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland and Russia.

The team got off to a strong start in the tournament finishing top of their group with 2 wins and 2 draws from their 4 games.

This resulted in the Blues progressing straight into the final where they would face Zenit St. Pietersburg from Russia. Unfortunately, the result didn't go their way with the team finishing in second place overall.

There was a trophy brought home however with Trevan Sanusi winning attacker of the tournament.



Inner City Recruitment Event

Following on from the success of the January 2019 Recruitment Event, this year's event returned to Hockley on the search for boys aged 6-11 who attend schools in the local area.

203 players attended the event, with the best being invited to attend a session at the Academy. The final stage of the event is a trial period within the Academy.

January 2020

Academy Graduates in the First Team

January signaled the beginning of the Blues FA Cup campaign as well as their continued efforts in the league.

Odin Bailey and **Moha Ramos** both made the bench for the First Team but neither made an appearance.

Jude Bellingham made his FA Cup debut against Coventry whilst also making starts against Wigan and Cardiff where he scored the opening goal of the game in the 1-1 draw. He also made appearances against Middlesbrough and Luton,

Wes Harding made 2 appearances from the bench this month against Luton & Blackburn.

Connal Trueman started the first game of the year against Wigan.



International Call-Up

Connor Barratt was called up by the Republic of Ireland U16s as he helped them to a third-place finish in the Aegean Cup in Turkey.



FA Youth Cup Fourth Round

The Fourth round of the FA Youth Cup took place at Leamington FC. Having already played Barnsley in the league this season and lost 4-2, the Blues knew that they would be in for a tough evening.

The game started in this vein as Barnsley took the lead in the 27th minute which they retained going into half time.

However, a fast start to the second half resulted in the equaliser. Josh Andrews' low shot managed to find the back of the net to bring the scores level. Then the game turned with two sending offs for the Blues meaning that they would have to play the remaining 30 minutes of the game with 9 men.

Then with extra time looming, Kyle Hurst produced a moment of magic to fire the ball into the net to seal a 2-1 victory.

