

Bradford SFA U11 vs. Leeds SFA u11 – Yorkshire Cup (Replay)

After an hour's journey to the West of Yorkshire we duly arrived at Silsden AFC for the much anticipated Yorkshire cup replay against Bradford schools. The last game was a draw and certainly Leeds arrived expecting a tough match, but not unreasonably a win. Hull away beckoned for the winners in the semi-finals, but first Bradford needed to be overcome. Alas it was to prove another difficult game for Leeds B and in the end Bradford rolled out 1-0 winners to take the spoils and the right to play Hull.

Silsden A.F.C. was the venue for the match, In terms of the match, Leeds lined up in the familiar 4-4-2 format they have played for most of the season. However this time Sam McDermott was starting on the right wing with Danny Edwards as striker. Ned Dry played off the front and Joe Gardner was operating down the left flank. The boys certainly seemed confident and bright in the warm up and Mr. Smith and Mr. Rossiter had fired everyone up to battle and play some great football. The first half saw a lot of early Bradford pressure, with an early corner being dealt with easily by Leeds defence of Devon Ward, Ollie Worland on the left. As is often the way Eddie Copeland led from the front with rousing runs down the right hand side out of defence and all looked well on track after some of his usual good crosses from the right hand side of the pitch.

One of the worries Leeds B has been working on is using the full width of the pitch and holding position across the park. Alas this was to prove the boys undoing again as Bradford broke away through the middle, winning the first ball and distributing to the wing.

It was this move to the Bradford right that caught the Leeds defence on the hop. In a split second the early pressure had taken its toll. Matthew Owen did his best to save the power shot, but Bradford had left the Leeds defence behind and quickly the ball was blasted wide into the bottom right of the net to make it 1-0 to Bradford.

Battle as the Leeds boys might, the first half brought little joy and the majority of their effort was focused on trying to win possession back or

the aerial battle in the midfield. The Team did have a number of chances to draw level, namely Lewis Firbank's great cross to Ollie Worland's header which flipped off the cross-bar. Marc Giddens battled like a terrier as ever and had 2 shots go wide as well. Danny Edwards and Ned Dry followed with 1 shot a piece; but it was all to no avail. Five chances, no reward. It just had that sense of not being Leeds day

The dulcet tones of Mr Rossiter provided inspiration at half time. The Leeds boys certainly were under no illusion to the task in hand and the expectations and so they ran out with renewed vigour and a refreshed sense of purpose. The second half saw the appearance of O'Neill Quinsou, Mason Mail, Kelan Swales and James Shaw and they all had an impact, but similarly to the first half not enough to change the direction of the game. Eddie Copeland was prominent with his runs to the corner and final crosses, as was Sam McDermott running into the centre. However Bradford's defence and changed goalkeeper were up to the task. With Leeds B there is never a shortage of effort or strikes on goal. Joe Hayton and James Shaw even got in the act from defence having great runs, but no goal at the end. In the final roll of the dice Mr Rossiter put Ollie Worland on up front to be the "Peter Crouch" of Leeds, but it was to prove a task too far.

The second half saw eight chances on goal and again no reward. For me this team deserve to get a bit of luck on their side. District football is a higher level and defences are tougher, that is true. However Leeds B do play some good football when they get going and they surely deserve to score some of the high volume of chances that they manufacture.