

Tournament Report

5th November 2011

English Schools FA 7 a-side District Competition

Yorkshire Area

Leeds March On to Northern Finals

A dreadful morning of incessant rain met the six district teams challenging in the annual Under 11 ESFA 7 a-side competition for the Yorkshire area.

The tournament hosted by Leeds District FA at St Theresa's school, Crossgates brought strong district sides from Bradford, Barnsley, Sheffield, York and Scarborough to compete for the right to represent the county in the Northern Finals.

A round robin style tournament saw all of the teams play each other and Leeds' first game was against a very skilful York side. In atrocious weather conditions, Leeds didn't really get going and were 1-0 down within the first two minutes. A brief rally back into the game saw Leeds equalize through Oliver Casey but York always looked dangerous and ran out 2-1 winners in the end.

The second game was more comfortable for Leeds as they emerged as 4-1 victors against an ill-disciplined Barnsley side who had one player yellow carded for dissent before seeing red later in the game for a series of late challenges. Oliver Casey hit a fine hat-trick for Leeds and Jake Wright completed the scoring with a neat header.

As heavy rain continued to pour Leeds faced Scarborough in their third game and despite taking a 2-0 lead with both goals from Aaron Kane and playing some great passing football, the drenched boys took their foot off the gas and allowed Scarborough back into the game to hit two late goals and tie the game.

The crunch derby game for the West Yorkshire division was up next as Bradford met a Leeds side, which by now had lost two players to the extreme weather conditions. A tight game was just edged 1-0 by Leeds with the winning goal from Jacob Little.

And so to the final game against Sheffield for the brave Leeds boys who had persevered in the worst of conditions. Another close game but Leeds eventually held out for a 2-1 win with goals from Seth Hartley and Jacob Little

The tournament ended with York deservedly claiming top-spot and the title of Yorkshire Champions. Leeds claimed runners-up spot overall and march on now to the Northern Finals through their qualification as West Yorkshire Area Champions.

