

## York U11 A vs Leeds B U11 - Friendly

**University of Hull, Inglemire Lane, Hull. - Saturday 15th Jan 2011. 10.45am.**

Another early start at Rothwell, it must be a Saturday!...it's kind of like getting up for work but with the promise of banter, travel, food and some free flowing football to entice. It's true the eyes were bleary, but all the boys appeared ready and up for this match against the York A team at the University of Hull's finest 3G pitch! As is often the case in Kingston-Upon-Hull, the wind is never far away. So, no surprises then that when the boys ran out for the first half, the wind duly picked up and Leeds B spent most of the first part of the match trying to tame the ball and keep it on the floor.

The expectation was high that Leeds B would give a good account of themselves and so it was proven for a few players. Alas it's a team game and this was the deciding factor. York played better as a team and consequently won the match.

This week the team adopted a 4-4-2 with Mr Tonge selecting Mason Mail in the sweeper position. The match was eventful. York early pressure saw a call for a penalty in the first few minutes as Leeds were supposed to have taken their striker down. It was a good decision by the man in black as the York player was clearly just struggling for balance.

Matthew Owen was called into action early doors and found himself having to make a good save at full stretch, tipping the ball over the cross bar from a very powerful Volley. It was all York, as the Leeds defensive system just did not seem to be working. Again another York attack and yet again Matthew Owen was called into action at the York no7's strikers feet, very brave stopping a certain goal. This continued to be the story of the half. Leeds passing and attack breaking down, York strong attacks down the right and serious pressure on the Leeds goal. The highlights of the half were the tenacity and passing from Marc Giddens who was prolific and passionate in midfield.

Ned Dry produced some sublime running through the middle of the field stepping the defence and passing a long through ball on to Danny Edwards. Danny attempted to chip the keeper from the left, but alas a good save scuppered the move. As it would turn out, this was Leeds best move of the game. Leading up to half time Matthew Owen made another save at the strikers feet and got hurt in the process. But Leeds B are made of stern stuff and they never gave up working. Unfortunately, as the half progressed York piled on the pressure and both the Leeds full backs were drawn out to the wings. Leeds had no chance and York took the lead to make it 1-0. The players of the first half were Ned Dry and Marc Giddens for putting their all into attack and Matthew Owen for keeping Leeds in touch with some fine saves.

The second half arrived with some hope that Leeds could turn things around and nick a few goals back on the break. Alas that blindfaith didn't count for much and the second half was a mirror of the first. O'Neill and Ollie Worland, Eddie Copeland and James joined from the bench at half time. Whilst the passion was there, passing was not and the boys continued to play too narrow a game. Kelan Swales and Devon Ward made some good passes. Ollie Worland headed well, but it was all on the backfoot. Lewis Firbank and Sam Mcdermott tried all their silky skills, but to no avail. York had ramped up the pace and were in the for the Kill. Chris Littlewood was a star in goal in the second half and saved numerous attempts including one take from a sharp volley down the middle. The two further York goals that came were from defensive scrambles in the Leeds box and frankly our boy's heads had dropped at this stage. So overall without wanting to be too harsh, it was a game of Leeds Keepers, Stoic defence but a blunt attack. There was no way back and the game ended 3-0 to York. From the cheer from their boys they knew that they had taken a key scalp. It didn't feel like a friendly, although it was in name, so Leeds B do live to fight another day and clearly the boys are saving themselves for the next big match,..perhaps.

Mr Rossiter said..." it was a bad day at the office today, let's put it down to experience and move on.."