

## Saturday 18th September 2010...

### 13's match report 1 - Sheffield Schools FA V Leeds Schools FA 1

Leeds Schools FA u.13's kicked off the new season with an away match at Sheffield, on a sunny Saturday morning, perfect weather, and the University Sports pitches were in fantastic shape, as good as bowling greens, a perfect playing surface allowing both teams to play skillful passing football.

Leeds were fast out of the blocks, and imposed themselves on Sheffield from the start, with Ross Kershaw and Lee Rowley tackling strong in the centre of midfield, controlling proceedings, and Grady Marshall and Kristian Smith starting well down the wings, they soon created chances for Jack Waters and Alexander McBurnie who'd started up front, and it was Jack Waters who had a couple of good early chances, running clear of the defence, but his power shot's on target were matched by good saves from the Sheffield keeper...

The Leeds defence of Michael O'Donoghue, Ross Dickinson, Dan Sefton and Tom Elliott were all playing well and were making strong tackles to snuff out any potential danger....and the Leeds goalkeeper Danny Crook, although having a quiet half, had to show safe hands in holding onto a couple of half shots...

Then on 20 mins a good cross from the right wing found Kristian Smith unmarked in front of goal, but unfortunately he slipped at the vital moment of shooting and the chance was gone...

Scott Townend, Fabian Bailey and Jamie Tonkinson were introduced into midfield and attack in the last 15 mins of the first half to keep the pressure up, but Leeds still could'nt break the deadlock.

A mistake by the Sheffield goalkeeper almost led to a penalty for Leeds, but the ref waved play on.....

As half time approached it was hard to believe that Leeds had'nt scored after creating so many chances, but then amazingly in the final seconds of injury time at the end of the first half, disaster struck, as Leeds failed to clear the ball quickly from their defensive line high up the pitch, a Sheffield striker won the ball and ran clear towards goal unchallenged, and he hit a good right footed shot from the edge of the box into the bottom corner of the net...1-0 to Sheffield.

As soon as Leeds restarted play from the kick off the ref blew for half time...the Leeds lads were gutted to have conceded a goal just before the half time break, after playing so well in the 1st half....

In the 2nd half, Leeds again took the game to Sheffield, with strong tackling in defence and midfield and good passing moves setting up chance after chance....

Leeds also won a couple of corners, Kristian Smith curling one corner kick directly against the back post....so unlucky....

Tom Elliott, Leeds' tigerish left back defender, was having a storming match, and made some great runs through midfield to set up attacks.

Then on 50 mins, a deflected shot found it's way through to Scott Townend in the box, and Scott coolly slotted home under the keeper....the Leeds supporters celebrated an equaliser, but the ref had other ideas, ruling the goal out for offside....

This spurred Leeds on even more, and on 55 mins, a great passing move down the left wing involving Tom Elliott and Scott Townend resulted in Grady Marshall receiving the ball on the edge of the box, and Grady turned and hit a great shot over the Sheffield goalkeeper and into the far top corner of the net....justice was finally done....1-1.

The next ten minutes were fairly even with both teams pressing for the winner, Sheffield almost scored, but Leeds' Lee Rowley saved the day with a great goal line clearance....Then Jamie Tonkinson could have sealed the win for Leeds on 65 mins when clear through on goal, but his shot was hit straight at the keeper....then Sheffield mounted another attack and almost nicked a late winner, but luckily their shot went wide....and finally in the last minute, another great chance fell to Leeds' Alexander McBurnie when he burst through on goal, but his shot was also straight at the keeper....

And so the game ended in a 1-1 draw.... a great entertaining start to the season.