

Match Report

11th September 2011

Leeds Schools FA U11's **1** (0) Wirral U11's **5** (3)

A tough baptism for the newly formed Leeds squad as they came across a well drilled and talented Wirral side. For most of the boys this was the first game of the season and the lack of practice as a team and in the new 11-a-side format quickly showed as Wirral dominated the possession.

The Leeds back four of Resendez, White, Swift and Ross defended bravely under continued pressure from the visitors but on 10 minutes keeper Murray was beaten by a wicked deflection which spun past him following a shot from the right hand side of the box. 1-0 down and it was still all Wirral with Leeds strikers Kane and Little working hard but finding chances hard to come by.

The second goal for the visitors came quickly on 15 mins with a beautifully struck free-kick from 25 yards which Murray could only get his fingertips to.

This second goal seemed to stir the home side into action but just as the Leeds midfield of Fitzpatrick, Jackson, Auty and Eddleston were starting to gain more possession of the ball and win more tackles Wirral hit back and scrambled a third goal in from a corner.

The Leeds boys did not drop their heads though and continued to edge back into the game for the rest of the first half and the score remained at 3-0 to the visitors at HT.

Four changes were made during the break with Harley, Rose, Brady and Wright entering the field of play. The fresh legs made a big difference and Harley's pace was causing problems for the Wirral defence. The home team grew in confidence but still couldn't create any clear chances. Meanwhile at the other end a great save by Murray and a headed goal-line clearance from Resendez kept the scoreline static until mid-way through the 2nd half when the referee played a good advantage following a Leeds foul on the centre spot and the Wirral side raced away on the break to make it 4.

This was harsh on Leeds who had started much brighter in the second half and a quick consolation goal by Wright following a fumble by the Wirral keeper was no more than they deserved.

A comeback from 4-1 down was unlikely for Leeds as Wirral regained their passing game and comfortably saw the game out.

The last kick of the game saw Wirral make it 5-1 following a well worked short corner and as the final whistle blew not many could argue with the scoreline.

The Leeds boys on their first time playing together can be proud of the way they came back into the game and battled against a strong and skilful Wirral side but it was just not to be their day. Next up Redcar and Sheffield (away) for the Leeds boys.