

Match Report - Date 2/11/2013: Birmingham Select vs Leeds Schools FA A team

Final Score: Birmingham 5 – 1 Leeds

This was the second game on the Saturday of the Walsall tour. The final score line was harsh on the Leeds team who on the whole did well against a good Birmingham 'select' team.

1st Third Team: Tom Nicholson-Watton, Joe Ingleson, Oliver Brown, Jack Backhouse, Haroon Bostan, William Holmes, Tom Woodeson, Liam Dean, Jonny White.

Leeds started the game showing good attacking intent straight from the whistle. One flowing move saw the ball move from Joe Ingleson to Jonny White to Liam Dean back to Ingleson whose low shot produced a good save from the keeper. White was causing Birmingham problems with his running down the right. Tom Woodeson and Will Holmes were controlling the midfield and getting some strong tackles in. Haroon Bostan was lively down the left winning the ball and making probing passes. After 5 minutes Birmingham had their first attack of the game and Tom Nicholson-Watton had to fling himself at the striker's feet to make sure Leeds didn't concede.

But in this first period Leeds definitely had the better of proceedings. White and Jack Backhouse linked up well down the right with Backhouse crossing the ball into Dean whose low shot was just turned around the post by the keeper. This was a good period for Leeds and they were exerting a lot of pressure and had 3 or 4 shots in quick succession and the ball was bouncing round the Birmingham box but they couldn't get the ball in the net. The ball then was cleared to Ingleson who had a long shot that rattled the post.

Birmingham then broke away and Woodeson cleared off the line with a fantastic header and then Nicholson-Watton made fine save to keep the scores level. Oliver Brown and Backhouse were solid at the back and got some key tackles in against a very fluid Birmingham attack.

As the period drew to a close Dean had a long range shot that was heading for the corner but a Birmingham defender just managed to race back and hook the ball off the line.

2nd Third Team: Tom Nicholson-Watton, Haroon Bostan, Matthew Johnson, Oliver Brown, Harry Barton, William Holmes, Ethan Kachosa, Ellis Wilson Gales, Jonny White.

Leeds continued were they left off Ethan Kachosa was causing problems with his twisting runs down the right and he and Brown linked up well down that side. Bostan was on the left and one run saw him swing in a dangerous cross but nobody could get on the end of it.

Birmingham then started to get more into the game and put some good attacking moves together. Matthew Johnson got some good tackles in to clear his lines. Brown was raiding down the right and linking up with White but Birmingham got plenty of bodies behind the ball and managed to break up any Leeds attacks.

Birmingham moved the ball at pace and after 5 mins they went 1-0 up after a clinical finish to a flowing move.

Leeds tried to get straight back into the game and White had a great run down the right but couldn't finish. There was then some nice play between Holmes, Kachosa and Bostan who crossed in but there was no Leeds player on the end of it. Birmingham forwards then started to pressurize the Leeds defence and midfield and the second goal came when they closed down well and won the ball in the Leeds half and the Birmingham striker finished well to make it 2-0. Leeds never gave up and there was some good running from Holmes and White and then White and Ellis Wilson-Gales who laid the ball off to Harry Barton who steered his shot just wide.

Final Third Team: Tom Nicholson-Watton, Joe Ingleson, Matthew Johnson, Jack Backhouse, Harry Barton, Tom Woodeson, Ethan Kachosa, Ellis Wilson Gales, Liam Dean.

Leeds started this final third well and showed some determination to get back in the game. One move saw great interplay between Barton and Kachosa who crossed and Wilson-Gales nodded just wide

Birmingham were no pushovers though and kept coming forward and Johnson made a few good interceptions and tackles to thwart a couple of Birmingham attacks. Ingleson was strong down the left hand side getting some good tackles in but also moving the ball forward when he could.

From another Birmingham attack Nicholson-Watton made a brave save at the edge of the box to keep Leeds in the game One Leeds move ended with Wilson-Gales running strongly into the box and was brought down for a clear penalty. Dean stepped up and scored with a strong low shot to the bottom corner giving the keeper no chance. Leeds now went in search of the equalizing goal and pushed forward. Dean had a shot that was well saved. As Leeds pushed forward they were leaving gaps at the back and Birmingham broke quickly from a Leeds corner and scored to make it 3-1.

Leeds continued to battle hard Woodeson was working tirelessly in midfield – Backhouse was making strong runs down the right and Leeds had other chances through Dean and Wilson-Gales but they just couldn't find a way through.

Birmingham scored two other goals late on the game to make the final score 5-1 to Birmingham which was harsh on Leeds.who until the last five minutes of the contest had as much if not more of the game and probably twice the amount of scoring opportunities as Birmingham