

### **Sheffield Schools U11 Clarets 3 Leeds Schools U11 'A' 4 – 14/02/15**

A bizarre 'Jeckyl and Hyde' performance from Leeds U11's as they ultimately edged a 4-3 victory against their Sheffield rivals. Leeds started slowly in the game... and then got slower as Sheffield started to dictate the game.

The first goal was 'route 1' but very effective as a long goal kick was flicked on to the on-running Sheffield striker who had time and space to slot the ball home. Leeds huffed and puffed to get back in the game but Sheffield looked the more dangerous and soon made it 2-0 when a lofted free kick found a free Sheffield head and keeper Fin Wade had no chance.

The riot act was read at the end of the first period but the desired reaction was certainly delayed as the second period started worse than the first period ended and Sheffield quickly took advantage making it 3-0 with a well taken goal rounding the visiting keeper following another defensive lapse. Leeds were in disarray all over the pitch and Sheffield piled the pressure on trying to put the game beyond Leeds. Somehow, Leeds survived the onslaught and began to get to grips with the game. Led by Alfie Wilkinson in midfield and Cassidy Hanakin on the wing they started to put Sheffield on the back foot towards the end of the second period.

A long range low strike from Wilkinson could only be parried by the Sheffield keeper and Dylan Youmbi was on hand to steer home the rebound. 3-1. Game on. Another attack from Leeds resulted in Cassidy Hanakin striking the post and suddenly Leeds started to believe they could get something out of the game. As the seconds ticked down at the end of the second period, an exquisitely struck corner from the right found Billy Carroll's head and his firm downward header was too strong for the Sheffield keeper and the rebound was tucked in by Cassidy Hanakin.

The third period saw a transformed Leeds side firing on all cylinders and intent on getting a result. The defence of Conor Pearson, Jack Teahan and Cole Roberts looked much more solid and Saul Kane at right midfield started to take players on earning a penalty for Leeds as he was clumsily bundled over in the box. Josh Stones smashed the spot kick into the net for the equaliser and from then on it looked like there would only be one winner.

Kane again twisted and turned in the box before a shove in the back earned a second penalty for Leeds which was again dispatched impressively by Stones. 4-3 and a very unlikely comeback had been completed by the visiting Leeds side.

There was time for more chances for Leeds to put the game beyond doubt but 4-3 it stayed and a perplexed Mr R left South Yorkshire wondering how his young side could be so poor and so excellent within the same game!!