

Leeds Schools FA U11's 0 – Wirral Schools FA U11 1

More Mersey misery for Leeds City Boys U11 'A' team as they fell to a second consecutive defeat in the Trans Pennine League, this time against Wirral.

It looked like it would be a comfortable day for the Leeds boys as the visitors arrived from their long journey from Merseyside with only 8 players for this 9-a-side contest due to illness within the squad.

This tough Wirral side had other ideas though and seemingly inspired by their numerical handicap they set about their task of containing Leeds and trying to catch them on the break.

The young Leeds team, perhaps still reeling from their set-back last week against Liverpool took time to settle down and failed to take advantage of having the extra player.

Wirral's defensive line was very strong and coping well with the Leeds threat and after ten minutes they quickly turned defence into counter-attack and a quick through ball evaded Leeds' defence too easily leaving the pacey Wirral striker one-on-one with Fin Wade (returning from injury in the Leeds goal) and he made no mistake with a clinical finish from just inside the box.

Leeds had their chances in the first third with Dylan Youmbi firing over from a Cassidy Hanakin lay-off and Charlie Costello unlucky not to score with a clever flick from a corner but overall Wirral continued to frustrate Leeds' best efforts and always looked dangerous on the counter attack.

The second period continued similarly with a very heavy and muddy pitch not allowing either team to get any passing movements going and chances were few and far between until Cole Roberts was harshly judged to have pushed one of the Wirral forwards on the edge of the six-yard box and a penalty was given by the official to the visiting side.

Fortunately for Leeds the pitch conditions came to their rescue as the spot kick was poorly struck through the mud allowing an easy save for substitute goal-keeper Riley Greenwood.

The final third of the game saw Leeds push hard for an equaliser with Cole Roberts going close with a well struck free kick but Wirral stood firm even though their legs must have been tiring on such a heavy pitch.

The last minute of the game arrived and a big penalty shout from the Leeds team resulted in a dramatic finale as the referee pointed to the spot to give Leeds their last chance to salvage a point from the game.

However, their season-long penalty curse hit them again though as Saul Kane stepped up but couldn't get enough power on the ball through the mud to evade the Wirral keeper.

So it ended 1-0 to the team with only 8 men and whilst on the balance of play perhaps a draw would have been a fair result, no-one could deny Wirral earned their victory with a great team display in adversity.