

Fixture: Leeds u12's v Barnsley u12's 10:30 kick off

Following the disappointment of the postponed Derby fixture in October, the Junior Star League for 2015/16 got underway on Saturday when Leeds welcomed Barnsley Schools FA to St. Theresa's.

As both teams gathered around the centre circle, arms linked, heads down, and spectators and coaches stood in silence we all paused to take a minute to remember what had happened in Paris on Friday night. God rest their souls.

The ref's whistle sounded and we were off with the 2015 league campaign. Leeds started with some confident play passing the ball freely from one side of the pitch to the other. Early pressure down the left wing as the ball moved quickly between Jack Teahan and Cole Roberts resulting in some dangerous crosses in to the Barnsley goalmouth, one being cleared off the goal line.

A first Barnsley attack is thwarted by Alfie Wilkinson who coolly clears the danger from outside the Leeds box with a direct pass to Ross Allison on the half way line. Ross's strength and hold up play is used to great effect as he sends a through ball to Cole who, with pace and a *Baggio* swagger rounds the keeper to make 1-0.

Leeds continued to dominate the play from midfield, Alfie Wilkinson instrumental in all the build play and distributing the ball to both flanks, stretching the visitors from South Yorkshire.

19 minutes in to the first period the referee awards a free kick on the edge of the 'D' as Ross is brought down. Cole sets himself and floats a ball over the wall for Jay Crumbie to poke in to the bottom left corner, 2-0.

From the restart Barnsley press, Jay blocks a shot with body and the visitors get a corner. The ball is fired in at speed, pings around the danger zone before scraping Jack T on the face and Jack Wade picks up safely. The first 20-minute session ending 2-0.

Saul Kane and Joel Neto replace Harrison Jeal and Jay Crombie at the start of the 2nd period.

Barnsley start to settle in to the game and string a number of attacking opportunities together but the rear guard of Owen, Billy and Jack T link together well and manage to hold their defensive line. A rare moment of confusion at the back allows the Barnsley centre forward to break free in to the box, and as Jack Wade comes quickly off his line to block the attempt on goal his outstretched hand makes contact with the attacker and he goes down. Penalty! The kick is dispatched in to the bottom right corner and Barnsley get their goal. 2-1.

Finlay and Makaay come on for Ross and Jack W.

Leeds needed to stay strong in the last few minutes of the 2nd period as the tackles from both sides came in thick and fast. The period ends 2-1; Barnsley much stronger but still only had two shots on goal, one being the penalty.

The Leeds boys reentered the pitch for the third and final period with a spring in their step. Some neat footwork from Makaay, Saul and Harrison resulted in an attempt from Cole which he prodded just wide of the post.

4 minutes in to the final period and after another strong tackle from Alfie, Saul chips an inviting ball through to Cole who hits the target to get his second and make it 3-1.

The Leeds team were now hungry for more, Makaay has a shot tipped wide by the diving Barnsley keeper, Harrison's shoots over the bar, intelligent play by Jay puts Cole in on goal again only to be stopped by the brave keeper. Barnsley couldn't cope with this amount of pressure and as Cole picked up the ball from the halfway line, used his pace to see off two Barnsley players before slotting the ball to Makaay in the box who pokes it under the keeper to make it 4-1.

A very strong and professional performance from the Leeds team and a great start to the league campaign. Roll on Huddersfield on the 21st.