

## 10th December 2016 U12 V Nottingham in JS LEAGUE.

As the Leeds lads lined up it was down to the bare bones with the nine on the pitch having to play the full sixty minutes. A very bright opening ensued for Leeds who kept the ball in the Nottingham half and were passing really well upon the freshly cut pitch. Russell and Brad P were working well together on the right and Leo was commanding in midfield. Sam was switched to centre half and Max dropped in to left back. Leo nearly fashioned a chance for Jamie with a defence splitting pass but Jamie couldn't get the ball out of his feet. Jamies pace then won a corner for his team but it came to nothing. It wasn't all one way traffic though as Nottingham had few forays forward but Sam, Ben and Max were looking solid at the back.

Some good forward play by Leeds resulted in Jamie finding the side netting. It was early days in this game but the fluency of play and confidence in each other seemed to have returned for Leeds. It was soon 1-0 to Leeds as some great interplay in midfield allowed Jack to hit a sweet pass for Jamie to run on to. He rounded the keeper and scored from an acute angle. Minutes later Jamie had another close effort after a ball from Russell that ended when the keeper made a fortunate save with his feet after Jamie had shrugged off the defender. Seconds later a similar move ended with Jamies shot edging just wide.

It was 2-0 before long as Brad P hit the bottom corner from the edge of the box with the keeper rooted firmly to the spot. Brad P then caused a slip from the keeper and won his team a corner from which Ben came close to extending the lead with a header. Leeds were causing Nottingham all sorts of problems going forward and Brad W had, to press, being a virtual bystander although he looked very confident with the ball at his feet as Leeds were consistently looking to switch the play. It wasn't that Nottingham weren't trying to attack but the Leeds defence were majestic and Leo was an absolute colossus in midfield.

Just before the whistle ended the period of play Nottingham did have a free kick, albeit from distance, but Brad W held it tightly.

A quick paced start to period two had Nottingham camped in their half as Leeds won a corner. It was swung in by Jack and Ben saw his effort denied by the bar but Jamie was on hand to stick away the rebound for 3-0. Its amazing the difference goals make as Leeds were buzzing and were first to all the second balls which hadn't been the case in recent weeks.

Russell and Ben were playing well together down the right and Max certainly didn't look out of place at left back as he constantly looked to go forward. Leeds were dominant but despite their cool collected play they were not making the opposition keeper work as hard as they should. A move that was started by Brad W, who was calm under pressure, led to Leeds sweeping the length of the field and Jamie crossed for Russell who's shot narrowly missed the target and hit the side netting.

Leeds were back to talking to each other and supporting each other, akin to the opening weeks of the season and they were knocking the ball around with aplomb.

Max made an excellent tackle in his own box to deny Nottingham a shooting chance although they were close in the same passage of play with a superb volley that blazed over the bar. Nottingham came close again as they hit the base of the post as Brad W had got down well and had it covered. He later claimed to have got a touch .... with his head (I'm not sure it was the time or place for a diving header). He'd done well as the custodian today, especially with the ball at his feet and with his distribution. Back at the Nottingham end the keeper had made a couple of bread and butter saves before a good stop to deny Jack who'd done his best to audition for Diversity with some fine dance moves. The period ended with Leo making a great defensive tackle in his own box.

Period three started much the same with each Leeds player wanting the ball and Jack came close with a shot before Nottingham won their first corner of the game. It came to nothing as Leeds cleared and ran the full length of the pitch before Jamie squared to Brad P who slotted home for 4-0. From the restart a good tackle by Max gave Nottingham a second corner, although the last one turned out ok for a Leeds. It was nearly a carbon copy as Sam powered the ball forward to Jamie but on this occasion the Nottingham defender came out on top. Brad P got his hat-trick to make it 5-0 as he took a ball from Jack, weaved around his marker and hit the ball home. Leeds to a man were playing really well. They were playing for each other and looked more cohesive as a unit. They were a team again. Crosses were flying in from all over the place as Sam, Russell and Ben all had good deliveries into the box before Leeds won a free kick on the edge of Nottingham's box. Coach Olly nominated Leo .... it was beautiful! The ball left his foot, it rose, it dipped, it nestled perfectly in the top corner of the near post for 6-0. I don't think anybody was more surprised than Leo who's face was a picture of shock and disbelief. Russell then came close as he came across the keeper to knock a whipped in cross just wide of the post. It was soon 7-0 as Jamie powered forward, shrugged off a couple of challenges and nearly uprooted the goal such was the power of his thunderous shot. With the final move of the game Jamie neatly became the provider for Brad P but it wasn't to be.

It finished 7-0.