

Saturday 5th November. Away at York.

Brad Wood, Brad Pride, Leo, Max, Jack, Charlie, Jake, Sam, Jamie, Russell, Alfie, Zach and Ben. Ian and Olly P were absent.

On the bench were Sam, Jamie, Brad Wood and Alfie as Leeds started facing into the sun with a strong wind at their backs and Coach Olly imploring them to get it on the ground. It was a scrappy opening and the first action of note came from Charlie who tried to use the wind to his advantage attempting to curl a corner directly in. Both teams were trying to pass the ball on the lovely grass surface but the wind was hindering the weight of the pass for each team.

Jack delivered a teasing cross but the York defender hooked it away from Brad Pride who was loitering with intent. Moments later Brad Pride burst through and looked for all the world like he'd be muscled off the ball but his perseverance prevailed as he poked it between the keeper's legs for 1-0. Almost from the restart Charlie won possession and weaved through only to be thwarted by the corner of the post and bar with the keeper beaten all ends up.

However, it was soon 1-1 with a solid York shot beating a diving Zach low and to his left.

A lovely long drive down the line from Ben found Brad Pride whose shot was saved by the keeper's legs. Still 1-1 but Leeds were playing well and trying to keep it on the floor. York did have the ball in the net but they were caught offside and for the same reason Leeds were thwarted shortly after. Leo was looking solid at the back, clearing up most things, and working well with a Russell and Zach. A teasing York ball had Ben stooping to head back to Zach with confidence. Another Leeds corner brought a half decent shot from Jack but with no reward. Less than a minute later he did make it 2-1 to Leeds with an angled drive from the corner of the box.

Minutes later a misplaced Leeds ball conceded possession and York broke in numbers to equalise. 2-2 just before the whistle signalled an end to the passage of play and as the rain was starting to fall.

Brad Pride, Russell, Jack and Ben made way for the subs to enter the fray for the second period and very early on it was 3-2 to Leeds. Brad Wood found Max after some great build up play, finding the diminutive midfielder after being tumbled to the floor. Max then slid a perfect ball across the edge of the box to Jake who finished the move in style. Jamie was a constant threat and came close with two efforts as the pace of the second period increased. Jamie was again set free, this time by Brad Wood but he still couldn't beat the keeper and nor could Max with the next Leeds attack. It was the turn of a York next who fired over the bar from 25 yards as the Leeds midfield had allowed their player too much time and space. Next Charlie, Jamie and Brad Wood moved Leeds forward but Jake was unable to capitalise as the net beckoned. It was fairly end to end at this point but Leeds were shading it, although the Leeds fullbacks, especially Alfie, were seeing a lot of the ball as a York tried to hit the channels. Brad Wood was once again the provider for Jamie but his shooting boots weren't with him on this occasion, still 3-2 Leeds. A minute later it was 4-2. A delicious ball from Alfie found Jamie who made sure this time with a strong finish. It was 5-2 from Charlie before long. A speculative effort hung in the wind and somehow dropped into the goal to the bemusement of York's keeper and much of the crowd too.

Despite playing into the wind and rain Leeds were spending an increasing amount of time in York's half as Coach Olly was insisting on a passing game. This philosophy carried out by Sam and Charlie enabled Brad Wood an opportunity to fire across the face of goal but there was nobody able to get on the end of it. Zach was next into action with two really solid saves and then some nice approach play allowed Max to put the ball into Jamie's feet who then spun and shot wide at the end of the second period. The rain stopped falling just before the start of period three as Leo, Jake, Max and Charlie took to the bench. York were the first to attack but it fizzled out like a cheap firework. Leeds then broke down the other end and Brad Pride fired into an empty net for 6-2 after strong play by Jamie.

Jamie then made it 7-2 as he fired past the keeper almost immediately from the restart. Brad Wood then earned his team a corner after he danced and weaved around three York defenders. The corner by Jack was inviting but nobody got a head on the ball. York then attacked but shot well wide. Another two followed, one well saved by Zach and the other deflected wide. The corner caused all kinds of confusion in the Leeds box but was eventually cleared before York came again and once more Zach was equal to the shot. It was a purple patch for York as Jack conceded a free

kick that Sam headed clear and Zach was once again called into action. Despite trailing 7-2 York were not giving up without a fight. Leeds then romped forward and Russell won a corner and the resulting delivery was met by the head of Brad Pride but the keeper saved well in a crowded six yard box. Brad Pride again came close at one end before York did the same at the other with Zach saving and Ben on hand to tidy affairs away. Leeds were playing a high line and Sam was having a few forays forward with some lovely footwork leaving a couple of York forwards planted firmly on their backsides but York had the next shot which the wind directed wide. A short free kick out wide from Leeds allowed Ben to send a blustering shot goal bound which the York keeper dropped at Jamie's feet who stabbed the ball home for 8-2 and his hat-trick.

Not long after the keeper denied Brad Wood who once again tried to weave some magic around the edges of the box. Then York pushed forward and had two decent efforts but they were dealt with once more by Ben and Zach. Leeds conceded another free kick, this time midway in their own half, which was blasted goal-wards and although Zach palmed it onto the bar York were quicker to the loose ball and made it 8-3.

They were at it again as Zach made another good stop shortly after. It was end to end for a few moments as Leeds came close and then Sam denied York with a great tackle when outnumbered. It swung each way again before York made it 8-4. Brad Wood once more played the weaver and was denied by a good save from the York keeper and then Russell rattled the crossbar as the referee brought to an end a thrilling game of football.

It finished 8-4 to Leeds and although conceding four goals I think it only fair to say that Zach probably had his best performance to date today with some fine saves and some good footwork.

Well done to all on another fine team effort.