

## U11 Leeds B v York 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – Match Report

Leeds were looking to build on an unbeaten Midlands tour and carry the camaraderie of their Walsall trip into their first home game for 5 weeks. An early glance at the match programme suggested that York would be no pushover after 2 wins from their first 2 games of the campaign.

### **First 3rd**

From the kick off Leeds looked lively with some great work down the left by George Brown, battling hard and tricking his way past defenders, with good support from Ben Ratcliffe down the middle. Toby Barker-Smith made a strong start, culminating in a looping shot from 25 yards that was safely caught by the York keeper. At the other end the York No. 8 was always a danger and on 10 minutes a long ball found him running free of the Leeds defence, a hint of offside, but he slotted the ball neatly into the corner past the outstretched hand of Alex McIntyre who couldn't have done any better.

Leeds kept their heads up and Max Lenighan began to distribute the ball nicely from midfield, while Charlie Eastwood made some searching runs down the left, fighting hard to retain possession.

In a characteristically strong performance, Alex Carroll began to dictate things down the right, linking up well with Denelle Godfrey. James Gregory and Barker-Smith snuffed out any further breaks by York and Gregory played the ball nicely out to Toby who went on several surging runs down the left.

With seconds left of the first 3<sup>rd</sup> the York No. 11 found himself 20 yards out with the ball at his feet – he unleashed a cannonball of a shot that appeared destined for the top corner, but McIntyre sprang to his right and got a firm hand to the ball to tip it round the post – the save of the day.

### **Second 3<sup>rd</sup>**

York were quickest out of the blocks and enjoyed plenty of the ball in the early minutes, one quick move down the right looked certain to threaten the Leeds goal but Carroll cut out the ball with another well-timed tackle. The reprieve was a temporary one as York broke free again and, one on one with the Leeds stopper, the York No.8 again placed the ball accurately out of McIntyre's reach, 2-0 to York. The York players showed more aggression as the game progressed and at times this physicality crossed the line into dirty play, with frequent nibbling at ankles and a number of poor tackles on Leeds players resulting in free kicks.

York's set pieces were dangerous and on 30 minutes the Leeds defence struggled to clear an in-swinging corner that bounced around the box before being struck goalward by the York striker, the defender managed to get a touch but not enough to prevent the 3<sup>rd</sup> York goal. Despite the scoreline Leeds showed spirit, with both Jake Kilbride and Kyle Astall making some well timed challenges and bringing the ball forward confidently. James Waters and Michael Walker enjoyed some good possession down the flanks and created several chances with balls into the box. On 36 minutes, a York foul resulted in a Leeds free kick. Amidst cries of "Have a shot!" from the Leeds faithful, Carroll hit a screamer on target, which the keeper stopped but failed to gather and Eastwood was on hand to coolly slot the ball away for a Leeds lifeline.

3-1 to York at the break.

### **Third 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Leeds battled on against a York side that continued to play a physical game. Good defensive work by Walker, Gregory and Waters resulted in a number of York corners which Leeds dealt with comfortably.

Then on 51 minutes, in a carbon copy of the first 2 goals, the York No. 8 ran free of the Leeds defence and slotted home to kill off hopes of a Leeds comeback.

The game ended 4-1 to York.

The Leeds boys mustn't feel despondent; they weren't outclassed by York and on another day could have won the game.