

York v Leeds U13s - League - 14/03/15

It was a cold, overcast but dry morning in York, but as last time we travelled there, the start of the game was disrupted as York thought they were playing away and had gone to Leeds which caused a half-hour delay! They should have known as they called the game off earlier in the season after all the boys and parents from Leeds had arrived at the ground only to find the pitch was frozen.

1st Half:

York had early possession but the first effort on goal was from Matty Swift whose shot was safely dealt with by the York keeper. York replied with an attack and James Shaw had to make a timely interception to snuff out the danger. Leeds were showing up well and Lewis Branton was just beaten to a through ball by the keeper. As York attacked down the right one of their players was challenged in the box, and although he seemed to be falling before any contact, the referee decided a penalty was justified and it was put away to give York the lead - 1 - 0. Leeds were playing excellent football up to the edge of the box but the final ball was missing.

In York's next attack their forward was clearly offside but Harry Carney did well to chase back and rob him as no whistle came. The next two chance fell to Leeds as Lewis crossed but no-one connected and then Charlie Webb robbed the keeper but his cross was cleared. York looked dangerous when they got near the box and a strong shot flew over the Leeds bar. Leon in Leeds goal had his first real test but safely gathered a long-range strike. Alistair Thompson was causing problems with his direct running and crosses and then Tom Casey caused panic in the York defence but they eventually scrambled his cross away. The chances kept coming Leeds way and an Owen Hindley free-kick fell to Lewis whose shot was saved before his next effort cleared the bar.

As York replied, their winger beat a number of defenders but he was foiled by Leon smothering the ball at his feet. Another good ball from Alistair almost got Kian Linley in but the ball ran away on the firm surface. Leeds received a free-kick well outside the box and Owen struck a firm shot that narrowly missed the angle of post and bar. As the half ended Lewis supplied Kian with a chance that was scrambled for a corner before York broke and Leon saved an effort from their big forward as the whistle went.

Half-time: York 1 - 0 Leeds

2nd Half:

York started on the offensive and James and Harry Sykes had to make good tackles to thwart them. Leeds came back with a Joe Turpin shot being saved and Matty Kyle supplied Kian but again the ball beat him for pace. Joe then supplied a great cross but no-one could connect. Both teams were playing good football and when York won a corner it was initially cleared but was returned where an unmarked player headed home - 2 - 0. On the balance of play Leeds did not deserve to be behind and they asserted themselves with Jonah Evans battling hard in midfield against bigger players.

After Harry Carney had shot over and long through-ball from Owen just beat the Leeds forwards for pace again but from their next attack Leeds got the reward they deserved. A corner was played short and Kian crossed for Owen to head the ball home at the far post - 2 - 1. This setback stung York into action but Leeds dealt well with their attacks. As the game flowed from end to end Lewis was denied by a last-ditch tackle before a good ball by Matty Kyle saw Lewis hit a great shot that struck the inside of the post and rebounded to safety.

Leeds were pressing hard for an equaliser and Luke Owen shot wide before Leon, at the other end, went down again at a forwards feet. Jack Kreczmer had to be alert against York's winger but kept him in check on the whole. Leeds had kept the opposition to few chances with James and Harry Sykes both looking solid. Time was running out for Leeds but they kept playing good football and Charlie had the last chance of the game but the York keeper saved.

Full-time: York 2 - 1 Leeds

An excellent all round performance from Leeds Boys against a side made up of nearly all academy players. A draw was the very least they deserved and but for a dubious spot-kick and no luck with the woodwork that is what they would have got. No cause for despondency despite the score-line.