

Hull Schools FA U11 1 – Leeds Schools FA U11 ‘A’ 2

West Yorkshire Cup Semi-Final

Leeds edge tense semi-final against resilient Hull

Leeds City Boys booked their place in the West Yorkshire Cup Final with a hard fought 2-1 victory against close rivals Hull.

Played out on a superb playing surface at Hymers College, Hull the game started with Leeds confidently taking the game to Hull and looking very dangerous.

Cassidy Hanakin went very close to scoring in the opening minute after a superb Cole Roberts dummy but was thwarted by the Hull keeper.

Leeds early pressure paid off after 10 minutes as a free kick from Josh Stones fizzed round the Hull defensive wall and hit the inside of the near post fortunately falling straight into the path of poacher Cole Roberts who tapped the ball home.

Leeds continued to dominate possession but Hull's counter attacks down the right hand side in particular were causing problems for the Leeds defence and eventually this led to the equalizer for Hull. A long ball forward was pounced upon by Hull's striker as the Leeds defence hesitated and failed to clear. The speedy striker still had a lot of work to do but expertly rounded Leeds' keeper Fin Wade and found the net superbly from a tight angle.

The equalizing goal seemed to inspire Hull and bring nervousness into Leeds' game and the first period ended with Hull marginally on top and piling the pressure on with a series of corners which the Leeds defence, expertly led by Connor Pearson, had to dig deep to keep at bay.

The second period continued to be a closely fought affair with Hull looking dangerous from set-pieces in particular. As the period wore on, Leeds' pressure built and built but the elusive second goal could not be found and the game was finely balanced at the second break.

The final third of the game had the crowd biting their nails as the game had a feeling that it would be 'next goal wins'. Leeds looked more likely and more threatening going forward but Hull were very resilient without really troubling Leeds' keeper Wade too many times.

With extra-time looming, Leeds won a free-kick for a push in the back on the edge of the box. Up stepped skipper Josh Stones and his fierce free kick evaded the wall but was blocked near the goal line. Stones was first to react to the re-bounce and steadied himself with his first touch before firing home the winning goal with a low right footed drive.

Hull had a final attempt to equalise in the dying seconds from a corner as they send everyone up into the box including their keeper but Leeds held out and the final whistle blew to Leeds' relief.

A very tough and exciting game played in a great spirit which on balance Leeds just about edged to keep their dream of a West Yorkshire League and Cup Double alive.

In the day's other semi-final tie, Sheffield Blues beat York and now face Leeds in the big final show-down on May 16th at Storthes Hall, Kirkburton.