

Barnsley v Leeds U13s - League match - 28/2/15

1st half:

The game started in dry, calm conditions on a firm, flat pitch which would hopefully help a good passing game - so no excuses this week! Straight from the kick-off Leeds looked up for it and they took the lead very early on as Owen Hindley picked up a loose ball in midfield and gave Lewis Branton a chance with a lovely pass that he finished with a shot across the keeper into the far corner :

0 - 1. Barnsley replied to this setback and Leon Heppell in Leeds' goal had to be brave to save at a forwards feet. Leeds returned to the attack and Charlie Webb had two chances to increase the lead but both were narrowly wide. It was all Leeds and Lewis again showed lethal finishing with a volley from just outside the box that left the keeper helpless : 0 - 2.

Leeds were almost constantly on attack and when Matty Swift got into the box he was brought down for an obvious penalty. Owen stepped up a put it in the bottom corner : 0 - 3. The Barnsley defence were being overrun and Matty and then Alistair Thompson both had shots saved. When Barnsley finally had play at the Leeds end Leon again went down bravely to snuff out the danger. It was only momentary relief for Barnsley as a defensive error gave Charlie his third chance which he finished well with a low shot :

0 - 4. The Leeds defence was coping well when Barnsley did attack and Harry and Ellis were looking strong at the back and James Shaw was doing a fine job keeping Barnsley's very big forward quiet. Leeds had two more efforts as the half drew to a close with Owen firing across goal from a throw-in but narrowly missing the far post before a good cross from Joe Turpin was headed against the woodwork by Alistair.

Half-time: Barnsley 0 - 4 Leeds

2nd half:

Barnsley, with the wind, started better this half and Leon was in action three times early on with a good catch from a cross, a dive away to push the ball for a corner and another smother at an attackers feet. Barnsley then won a free-kick about 25 yards out but the ball was put wide. Jonah Evans was battling hard in midfield and won a couple of free-kicks before Luke Owen almost threaded his way through the box but was halted by a last-ditch tackle. Jonah then had a shot that was parried by the keeper but Charlie was on hand to bury the rebound : 0 - 5. Leeds were finding it harder this half against the wind and Barnsley got some reward when a fierce long-range shot gave Leon no chance : 1 - 5.

James was still keeping tabs on the big forward and Matty Kyle made some good tackles before he supplied Lewis with another chance that was snatched off his toes by the keeper. Leeds turned the pressure up again and Alistair won a corner which Luke headed against the post and Matty Swift was on hand to force it home : 1 - 6. As the game drew to a close Leeds looked comfortable and it took another excellent long-range shot from Barnsley to give them a consolation goal as it flew in just under the bar : 2 - 6. Leeds had dominated the game and restricted Barnsley to two long-range goals which should inspire confidence for the rest of the season.

Full-time: Barnsley 2 - 6 Leeds

An excellent performance by all the team which shows how good they can be on a decent surface. It would be unfair to single anyone out but Leon and James, both relative newcomers, had very good games as did everyone else. Team spirit was great and it was nice to see Jack T and Jack K both attend as they knew they were not playing through injury.