

Leeds v Harrogate U13s - ESFA Cup Round 2 - 15/11/14

1st Half:

The game kicked off on a heavy pitch in foggy conditions. The early play was even with neither side creating any chances. The first shot of the match came from Charlie Webb but it was straight at the keeper. Harrogate replied and had success when a mistake in the Leeds defence let Harrogate sweep downfield and their striker finished calmly - 0-1. Harrogate were playing well and a corner had to be cleared with a strong header. At the other end a long goal-kick from Callum found Luke Owen but his strong shot was blocked by a defender. Soon after Tom Casey received a short corner but his shot was dealt with by the Harrogate keeper followed by another shot wide. Leeds were on top during this period and Lewis Branton had his shot saved.

Joe Turpin was having an excellent game making strong tackles in defence and attacking with pace out wide. On the other wing Alistair Thompson put in a dangerous cross but no Leeds forward could get on the end of it. As half-time approached a nice through-ball from Owen Hindley set up a chance but Leeds were caught offside.

Half time: Leeds 0 - 1 Harrogate

2nd Half:

Leeds came out in determined fashion early on and Owen had a shot from distance clear the bar. After a period of midfield stalemate another Leeds defensive mix-up saw Harrogate double their lead as a shot was blocked but the rebound was put away - 0-2. Leeds almost reduced the deficit immediately but a fine save saw Lewis have a shot tipped over the bar and Charlie then shot wide. Leeds pressure finally got some reward with a fine finish from Lewis from a pass from Alistair - 1-2. Leeds pressed for an equaliser but in a Harrogate breakaway a low cross somehow squirmed under Callum and crossed the line - 1-3.

Leeds now had to throw men forward and Lewis shot wide and Alistair had a shot saved at the second attempt before Owen reached the byline after a good run and his pass was slotted home by Lewis - 2-3. With not long left Leeds desperately searched for an equaliser but despite a couple of good moves time ran out and Leeds exited the Cup for this season.

Full time: Leeds 2 - 3 Harrogate

Overall a decent performance from Leeds against a competent and determined side. Unfortunately, the loss of two key players through injury and the gifting of all Harrogate's goals made a positive result almost impossible. Just one of those days when things went against them.