

REDCAR & CLEVELAND v LEEDS 'A'

It was with an air of expectancy rather than hope that Leeds commenced the season in the North East, as an encouraging trial process and an early season training session had the Management team viewing the forthcoming campaign with optimism. In very wet conditions, with the smell of the sea in our nostrils, but on an excellent playing surface Leeds started very brightly and created a lot of pressure for the beleaguered Redcar defence. Josh Stones giving the defence a torrid time with his strong running and power, he was ably assisted by Ross Allison & Cole Roberts. Time after time the 'dynamic duo' of Alfie Wilkinson and Harvey Stephenson broke up the rare Redcar forays but shots whistled wide or were blocked with annoying regularity. Billy Carroll Conor Pearson & Gideon Pliener were in no mood to give Redcar any opportunity as the Leeds defence stood firm with keeper Riley Greenfield rarely tested. The waves of Leeds attacks continued relentlessly and from a Saul Kane through pass the reliable Harrison Jeal drilled a right foot shot home from the edge of the area, this was shortly followed by a neat finish from Charlie Costello after good work by Fletcher and Allison. Nathan Exton had to be alert after replacing the dependable Pearson when the talented Redcar striker got free but Exton showed great speed to recover and win the ball back. Wilkinson, captain for the day, led by example and a superbly drilled pass set Costello free down the left his superb pull back deserved better but the chance went begging and the normally clinical Allison blazed over. The final third started and Leeds just carried on with Stones battering his way through and driving home off the post for a deserved goal. A cross from Roberts after good play from Stephenson and Costello was rifled home by Pearson to make it 4-0.

Redcar pulled a goal back when a free kick was given for a tackle by Jeal and the resultant free kick was deflected home leaving Greenfield to look at his defence for a lack of communication.[early days boys!} Undeterred Leeds restored the 4 goal cushion when Stoned was the meat in the sandwich when caught by both keeper and defender and clattered to the floor. There was only one result...penalty! This reporter can honestly say that never has he seen an eleven year old boy hit a ball so hard ...goal ...5-1!!

That concluded the scoring in a thoroughly comprehensive win over a combative Redcar team, the travelling support must have been very satisfied and the Management definitely were. Positive signs so early in the season but more of a test next week in the 11 team tournament at St.Theresa's School.