

## MATCH REPORT 18

Saturday 4th February 2017 Home to East Riding Schools in a friendly.

Brad W, Jack, Ben, Jamie, Max, Russell, Sam, Charlie, Jake, Alfie, Harvey, Brad P and Ben. Olly P and Ian were absent whilst Zach continues to be injured. Also making an appearance in preparation for the forthcoming tournament were guest players Joe O'Toole, Jed Waterfield, Sam Appleyard and Jack Diffey who was playing up a year or two.

Entering the field of play for the first half were Brad P, Alfie, Jack C, Russell, Sam A, Max, Charlie, Sam W and Harvey.

Leeds started quite lively with Sam W hitting several searching passes forward but the first shot at goal fell to East Riding although it was wide. Sam A was looking busy and industrious in the middle of the park as the game became scrappy with little off the ball movement.

East Riding broke through the mundane and a delicate lob sailed just over the bar. East Riding then started to gain a stronghold as they passed the ball around well with Brad P ploughing a lone furrow up front. A half chance fell to him and then to Alfie who's shot lacked power.

East Riding were maintaining their foothold and some overplay in midfield by Sam A allowed East Riding to break forward and win a corner that fortunately whizzed across goal without a touch.

Leeds were losing ground in midfield although a free kick awarded their way allowed Leeds the opportunity to cross the ball. It was met by Alfie ghosting in at the back from the opposite side of the field but sadly the shot lacked power.

Leeds were by now looking a little disjointed with a few players in an unnatural berth and for a short while they were chasing shadows.

Sam W was playing well at the back and carrying the ball forward and with confidence. One such foray provided a ball to Brad P but the East Riding back line looked strong.

As the game progressed Charlie was starting to grow in to the centre half role and Russell and Jack alongside Max were starting to find their rhythm whilst Sam W and Alfie were combining very well on the left and trying to create opportunities for Brad P.

The ball found its way into East Ridings box courtesy of Alfie and Jack C was strong in the challenge which afforded him time and space to hit a rising shot in to the top left corner and make it 1-0 to Leeds.

Leeds had started to come back in to the game and were by now starting to hold a higher line although East Riding did fashion a tame shot after outplaying Charlie and Russell.

A cross field pass from Max to Brad P was laid off to Alfie who's shot was narrowly wide.

A lot of the Leeds offensive play was coming from triangular movements between Sam W, Alfie and Brad P. As a team they were getting more change out of the wide areas than playing through the middle of the park. Alfie in particular was playing some lovely touches and he nearly stabbed home a corner that was blocked and Sam A was unlucky with the loose ball.

The whistle then blew to signal the end of the first half which had started brightly for Leeds with East Riding dominating the passing although Leeds finished the stronger once they had got to grips with their own passing game. Leeds have had better halves this season but to be 1-0 up against a very good side was reward for their endeavours.

The second half lined up with Joe, Ben, Leo, Sam W, Brad W, Jack D, Jed, Jake and Jamie starting .... it was almost like the Japanese 'J' League!

An early touch for Joe saw him pass to Sam W who was looking to recreate his majestic performance in the first half which saw him being the only player retained from the first half with Coach Olly switching 8 players.

Once again the first opportunity of the half went to East Riding after a misplaced pass by Ben but Leo was on hand to mop things up. Jamie then had his first chance of the day but the East Riding keeper saved well at the strikers feet.

Jack D had started really well but his older brother Leo had the collective hearts of the home supporters in their mouths when his back pass seemed to circumnavigate Joe between the sticks although the keeper did manage to reach and clear the ball in time to prevent an embarrassing moment for the unflappable Leo.

Leo, Jake and Sam W then strung together a fine passing movement before releasing Jed but the diminutive midfielder was bundled off the ball. Shortly after Jed lobbed a delicious ball into the box but to no avail then Jamie fired a shot just wide which had his Mum shouting for him to grow a left foot!

Leeds were much more in control this half and playing better football. A move down the right wing involving Jack D who took a look before playing a perfect pass to Jamie who rounded the keeper and slotted home from a tight angle for 2-0.

Jed was the next to release Jamie with a lovely ball into the channel and he almost got on the end of Jamies subsequent cross for what would have been a lovely one-two. Play then switched with Leeds caught upfield as Ben made a timely block then Joe saved well before Ben again intervened and Jack D tidied things up.

Jamie then had another shot that the keeper dropped but fortunately for East Riding the keeper managed to pounce on the loose ball before the Leeds danger man.

Jack D and Jed were both getting stuck in and Jed won a free kick just outside the box which Leo stepped up to. The shot was accurate and lacked pace as the keeper saved.

A couple of chances followed at each end but nothing serious before Jamie raced free but the keeper foiled him with a leg that deflected it wide.

Leo then deflected a shot wide at the Leeds end after Sam W had lost his man. The corner whizzed across and Joe made a good save. This seemed to give an extra impetus to East Riding who started knocking the ball around really well. There was no panic or long balls in their game as they searched for a response.

Jamie then powered through again though following strong play by Jed, his shot was saved and Jake, who else (?), collected the rebound and confidently fired home for 3-0.

The East Riding keeper made another save from Jamie who'd been released by Jack D shortly after Leo and Sam W had done their defensive duties well.

Sam W then found Jed with space to spare and once more he played in Jamie but again the opposition keeper was equal to him.

East Riding did push forward though and they scored against the run of play to make it 3-1 and there wasn't much Leeds could've done to prevent it.

East Riding were now pushing forward and Joe made a save before Leo and Sam W cleaned up. A few movements each way followed before a shot went over the bar by East Riding.

Jamie then went on a run and his flick was saved before he tumbled in the box and looked towards the referee for a penalty. The man in black was having none of it though and waved play on before reaching for his whistle and ending the game.

A good result against a very good side.