

MATCH REPORT 6

Wednesday 26th October. Away at Sheffield United's Academy

Deputising between the sticks for the Leeds Schools U12's was a young man called Jack who'd been drafted in from the U13's for a mini festival involving Sheffield United Emerging Talent, Retford United, Sheffield Boys, Stalybridge, Cheadle, White Rose and two teams from Sheffield United's Academy. Leeds was due to face the first five of these in fifteen minute matches.

Leeds 2 - 0 Retford United

Keeper Jack, Sam, Ben, Olly P, Leo, Max, Jack, Jamie and Brad P

Leeds kicked off on the indoor surface at Sheffield United's impressive Academy and Brad P was the first to test the Retford keeper, then Jack had a pop but to no avail. Olly P also came close as Leeds were dominating the early exchanges. Leo came close after a corner from Jack, Sam then released Jack whose thunderbolt was well saved but Jamie, who else(!), stuck away the rebound for a well deserved 1-0 lead. The pressure continued as Retford turned behind a shot from Brad P. Soon after Olly P rattled the bar after good build up play from Max.

Crosses were flashing in and shots were a plenty as Retford found themselves camped in their own half. Brad P had two more efforts which the keeper was equal to and also to another effort by Olly P who was dancing the night away. It was a pass from Olly P that played Jack through to curl the ball beyond the keeper for 2-0 to Leeds. Some lovely pass and move stuff nearly brought another goal for Jack before some rare defensive touches from Ben and Leo were required. Leeds were very lively and at Coach Olly's command trying to play two touch football. It must be said the Retford keeper was in fine form and doing well before Retford emerged to register their first shot at goal.

Not long after Olly P showed great strength as he fired just over and then Leeds were caught a little high as Retford shot just over from a tight angle before Brad tried a speculative effort.

Olly P tried his luck again, this time stinging the keepers hands just before the whistle brought the curtain down to end a truly dominant Leeds performance that wasn't given justice by the score line.

Leeds 1 - 0 Stalybridge

Keeper Jack, Russell, Leo, Alfie, Brad P, Brad W, Jake, Charlie and Max.

Leeds moved outside for the next match and an early corner had the Stalybridge keeper clawing away a great cross. The early moments saw Jake, Alfie and Brad W linking up well for some great interplay and Brad P was very lively registering a couple of shots on goal.

This looked like it was going to be a little more even a contest as Stalybridge showed their own intent with a shot of their own and the next meaningful shot also belonged to Stalybridge, it was wide but had the Leeds keeper scrambling across goal. Coach Olly was urging his team to play a little faster as the intensity of the first game was not being matched in this encounter.

Soon a gorgeous through ball from Little Brad found Big Brad who rounded the keeper and with the goal at his mercy he showed great strength to shrug off a couple of challenges to make it 1-0 Leeds.

Max and Little Brad then enjoyed some lovely one-twos but Little Brad was unfortunate to only find the side netting with his shot.

The goal seemed to change the game as Leeds began to dominate with both Brads coming close, the Wood's version more than once as he latched onto a long ball and beat the keeper but not the bar as his shot fizzed over. Brad P tried his luck from distance and so did Max. Still 1-0.

A last ditch tackle then stopped Brad W at the expense of a corner and the player headed the resulting ball just above the bar.

Leeds started to play the ball around and used Leo and Alfie to switch the passage of play with ease as the game was drew to a close.

Leeds 0 - 0 Sheffield Boys

Keeper Jack, Ben, Sam, Alfie, Jamie, Jack, Olly P, Jake and Charlie.

Leeds were up against old foes for the third time this season and both teams settled into a steady, yet unproductive start. Neither team was really on top despite most of the play being conducted in Sheffield's half.

Charlie had a delightful flick to Olly P who rounded the keeper but ran into too many bodies.

The boys of the Steel City were proving hard to break down but Leeds were having more of the ball and playing some lovely lay-offs and delicate touches.

A rare Sheffield corner was headed clear by Ben to Alfie who had Coach Olly off his feet, quite literally as his clearance bowled him over.

Soon we witnessed some great passing by Leeds that was cutting the Sheffield midfield in half but they were defending in numbers and defending well. A short corner made its way to Ben who in turn played in Jack who forced a save out of the keeper. Jamie then headed the following corner above the bar. With the clock ticking Sheffield were awarded a free kick on the edge of the area which dipped too late as it just sailed fractions over the bar. Sam was busy shouting instructions from defence and in truth the Leeds back line had had little else to do. Leeds had dominated the game but it was looking as though the clock might beat them and indeed it did. It ended 0-0 in a fairly one sided game where Sheffield defended well and, unusually, Leeds didn't work the opposition keeper.

Leeds 2 - 0 Sheffield Emerging Talent

Keeper Jack, Russell, Jake, Leo, Brad W, Brad P, Max, Ben and Olly P.

Leeds were back indoors for this game and a frenetic start was had by both teams who were seeking to pass the ball quickly.

It was the Leeds keeper who made the first save but it was fairly routine before Brad W had the first shot for Leeds but his effort was charged down. This game was being played at quite a pace with neither team been given time or space to settle. A lot of the early play was in Leeds half but Leeds had the next shot of note when Brad W laid it off to Jake although it lacked pace and precision.

Brad P was next to try and forge his way through but Sheffield Emerging Talent defended well in numbers. Leeds were growing in confidence but it remained a tight affair. Leo was clearing up well at the back and continually tried to set his forwards away. A clearance from the Leeds keeper found Jake in space but again his finish eluded him as the space quickly disappeared. Leeds' keeper then made a good save low and to his right. Soon after Leeds broke away and Brad W passed to Brad P who's initial shot was saved but he hammered home the rebound for 1-0 Leeds. It was soon 2-0 as Russell hit a sublime shot with the outside of his boot that

curled around the keeper and in. It was almost in slow motion as Sheffield's keeper was rooted to the spot. Olly P then rattled the upright from a perfect pass by his keeper. Leeds were still having to defend but were doing so with aplomb and they were a constant threat going forward. So much so that Brad P scraped the paint off the woodwork with the final kick of the game.

Leeds 2 - 0 Cheadle

Keeper Jack, Ben, Sam, Jack, Leo, Max, Charlie, Jake and Jamie.

Back outside and in the full glare of the floodlights saw Cheadle clear an early Leeds effort off the line but this apart the early moments were relatively even and Coach Olly was instructing his boys to pick up their speed. Leeds were pressing well though and a through ball to Jamie set the on-going tone as he muscled his way through to goal and 1-0 to Leeds as he fired low and hard. Sam, Ben and Leo were once again commanding at the back and the whole team were busy moving, passing and talking. Jamie in particular was putting a shift in and he nearly capitalised on a raking free kick from Ben. It was Jamie again causing confusion for Cheadle's back line as he nut-megged the keeper whom then wrestled him to the ground to concede a penalty. Jack stepped up to the plate and stroked the ball low to the keepers right to make it 2-0 to Leeds. Jake came close to bagging a third for Leeds but the keeper held it well with Jamie hovering close by. Cheadle continued trying to pass the ball but a Leeds were comfortable and in control. It finished 2-0 with the Leeds keeper not having been troubled.

Tonight has been a real squad effort with every player playing their part and looking very much like a tight, well oiled machine. The team spirit and togetherness seems to have bonded very quickly and they look like they will get better and better as the season progresses.

Well done to all the lads. Keep smiling, stay focused and remain proud of your achievements so far.