

U11 Leeds B v Barnsley 26th November 2016 – Match Report

Both teams came into this game hungry for a win, having not registered a victory so far this campaign and the Leeds players and supporters felt that this was their day.

First 3rd

From the start Leeds were dominant with some lovely passing in midfield from Jake Kilbride, Max Lenighan and James Waters. Toby Barker-Smith made a strong start on the left and played the ball nicely forward to Charlie Eastwood, with Ben Ratcliffe creating opportunities on the right.

Leeds were looking fairly comfortable when a swift counter attack by Barnsley led to a curling shot past Alex McIntyre into the corner, giving the visitors an early lead.

Leeds remained positive and James Gregory and Alex Carroll kept things tight at the back and played the ball nicely out of defence.

Towards the end of the third, Ratcliffe and Eastwood linked up well and provided Waters with a chance to shoot, which he took in his stride with a screamer of an equalizer past the Barnsley keeper who didn't stand a chance.

1-1 at the break.

Second 3rd

The second period saw the introduction of George Brown and Kyle Astall who immediately made an impact, battling hard to retain possession and always looking likely to create an opening.

Leeds continued to look dominant, with Barker Smith again pushing forward down the left, but, as in the first period, Barnsley were dangerous on the counter-attack.

On the half hour Michael Walker made a strong run down the right and crossed from the corner to Denelle Godfrey who slotted home from the edge of the box to make it 2-1 to the hosts.

Shortly after, Godfrey intercepted a Barnsley goal kick and, one on one with the keeper, tucked the ball away to give Leeds a 2 goal cushion.

Characteristically strong performances from Kilbride and Gregory stifled any further Barnsley attacks and when they did get through, McIntyre was on hand with a couple of smart saves to ensure that the third ended with Leeds looking likely for the win.

Third 3rd

Leeds continued to dictate and great creative work from Ratcliffe, Brown and Walker gave Eastwood several early chances, one of which he seized on 45 minutes with a low shot from the left edge of the box that the Barnsley keeper couldn't get a glove to. At 4-1 Leeds were in dreamland, but moments later they were rudely awoken by a counter attack that opened up the Leeds defence and gave the visitors a lifeline at 4-2.

Another Barnsley attack resulted in another goal in quick succession and set up a nervy last 5 minutes for the hosts. Leeds kept their heads and solid defensive work from Carroll, Lenighan and Astall took the wind out of the Barnsley sails and snuffed out any chances of an equalizer.

The home team rallied and continued to push forwards and with a minute to go, George Brown dribbled the ball past a couple of Barnsley players and shot from 12 yards. The net bulged and cheers of elation and relief went up from the Leeds faithful.

Final score Leeds 5, Barnsley 3 and a well deserved win for Leeds B