

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Leeds SFA U11s 'A' v Leeds SFA U11s 'B'

Rarely is a game of football as competitive as this, a game where friendships were forgotten for 60 minutes: Leeds SFA U11s 'A' v Leeds SFA U11s 'B'.

Both teams needed no encouragement for this one!

Leeds 'B' started the brighter of the two with the first attack coming from Charlie Eastwood, turning the defence one way then another until Claude Paynter finally stopped his run. Leeds 'B' then broke again with Ben Ratcliffe tormenting the defence before putting Michael Walker through on goal but his shot went narrowly wide.

Leeds 'A' launched their first attack after 6 minutes with an inch perfect pass from Alex Hernandez into Joe Barrett who's first time shot skimmed the outside of the post. From the goal kick, George Brown struck a shot from the left wing which Charlie Emery, in the 'A' team goal, watches out safely. Emery was called into action again soon after to pull off two great saves in quick succession following a great drive by Alex Carroll and then Ratcliffe. Leeds 'B' continued to pile on the pressure with Eastwood, Ratcliffe and Walker causing problems for the 'A' team defence. Eastwood's efforts were finally rewarded with a goal as he shot through a crowd of players to find the back of the net. 0 – 1 Leeds 'B'.

Leeds 'A' responded to going a goal down with Moorby breaking down the left wing only for Carroll to time his sliding tackle to perfection and send the ball out of play. From the Leeds 'A' team throw Warren dribbled through the centre of the pitch until Toby Barker-Smith made the tackle and sent the 'B' team on the attack again, Eastwood using his pace and trickery to get past the defence only for Emery to save bravely at his feet.

Leeds 'B' definitely had the better of the opening 20 mins. However, Leeds 'A' finally found a way through with Harry Vasey crossing a great ball from the wing into Hernandez to score making things all level at 1 – 1.

The equalising goal seemed to spur the A's into life – first, a shot by Hernandez headed clear by James Gregory for a corner, quickly followed by a shot from Bruno Fernandes which was well cleared by Kilbride. The centre of the pitch saw a great ongoing battle between Lenighan(B) and Moyles(A) with Moyles winning the last battle to send Barone through on goal with a brave save from Alex McIntyre in the Leeds 'B' team goal.

Leeds 'B' then produced a great move which saw a quick passing interchange between Astall, Walker and Godfrey before a shot came in from Walker which was quickly smothered by Emery in the Leeds 'A' team goal. Emery then sent Oliver Westerman on a great run up the middle of the pitch, in turn setting Hernandez up whose tremendous effort hit the post with Kyle Astall making the clearance for the B's. The A's kept the pressure up with some fancy footwork from Thomas Barone sending Barrett through on goal only for a strong tackle from Jake Kilbride to stop him in his tracks.

The game was now end to end stuff with the B's responding well with great control and a swift turn from James Waters who sent the ball down the channel for Denelle Godfrey's trickery to be matched by the active Barney Hirst for the A's. Hirst quickly played it into Cameron Moyles in midfield but the pass was intercepted by Max Lenighan who moved the ball out wide to Kilbride who sent the ball down the channel to Ratcliffe. Ratcliffe then produced a great turn and shot which produced another save from Emery in the 'A' team goal. Two minutes later, at the other end, Leeds 'A' forced a corner which was played short to Oliver Westerman who skipped past the first challenge before powering the ball home. 2- 1 to Leeds 'A'.

Leeds 'A', their tails up after taking the lead, were soon attacking once again with a fantastic ball in from Fernandes to Hernandez only for Alex McIntyre in the 'B' team goal to pull off a fantastic save from point blank range. McIntyre's goal kick fell into midfield and saw some great battling play from Waters, Lenighan, Paynter and Warren, with Barker –Smith clearing the ball into safety.

But the B's kept pushing, searching for the equaliser and they must have thought they had found it when Eastwood broke through only to see Emery save his attempt at goal and then Westerman cleared Waters' follow up shot. Again, the B's came forward with Eastwood, who led the line superbly throughout, who looked to set Godfrey up for a tap in only for Hale to make a superb goal saving interception. Still the 'B' team attacked only for Westerman in the A's defence to clear the ball twice with his head following attempts by Brown and Carroll.

With just 5 minutes remaining Kilbride sweetly brought the ball under control and sent Waters down the channel, the ball eventually cleared by Hirst. Barrett then drove the A's forward but a brave block from Astall denied Moorby getting a third for the team.

But the A's had to wait until virtually the last kick of the game for their third goal when Barney Warren played a great ball through to Moyles who, in turn, put Hernandez in on goal with the striker clinically despatching the ball for the A's to win the game 3-1.