

LEEDS Schools FA U11 B 3-3 ROTHERHAM – 10th October 2019

Leeds SFA U11s B surrendered a two-goal lead before rescuing a dramatic 3-3 draw with Rotherham on Saturday.

After a terrific start with some lovely slick interplay, Leeds were deservedly 2-0 up early on, but Rotherham fought their way back into the game to take a 3-2 lead. With ailing Leeds looking ragged, they rescued a point with seven minutes to go via lightning quick top scorer Carter Lewis.

Leeds showed early promise with tricky Kenneth Mansah's early foray only foiled by a defender's outstretched toe, then Nick Bagshaw's side-footed shot was held by the visiting 'keeper, before another Mansah attack saw his drive repelled and Lewis Spellman's follow-up also saved. Joseph Bhaskaran's dancing feet proved a constant menace.

It was little surprise when Leeds took the lead after 10 minutes, Rotherham throwing their bodies in the way of two shots but proving unable to keep out a third, Mansah rattling home left-footed from 10 yards.

Spellman almost added a second but backheeled over the bar from a corner, then down the other end a low cross flashed across the area looked certain to be converted at the far post until Leeds right-back Finlay Dale blocked. From the resulting corner, Rotherham headed against the crossbar.

Just before the first interval (the game was split into 20-minute thirds), Mansah rampaged forward, hungry for a second, but smashed his shot against the near post.

The frame of the goal was rattled again after the re-start when hesitation in the Leeds defence (which was to prove a recurring theme) let in Rotherham's striker who thudded the bar.

Mansah's shot was tipped around the post by the visiting goalkeeper before Aden Surtees had his low shot smuggled wide of the near post. From the corner, Bhaskaran's skimmed header rolled into the far corner to double Leeds' lead.

An unfortunate deflection in the Leeds defence gifted Rotherham a chance which they took with a rifled shot into the bottom corner. It proved a turning point, despite Leeds almost scoring immediately afterwards in a goalmouth scramble.

Rotherham's central midfielder was allowed to ride a succession of tackles far too easily and Bagshaw was just unable to clear his bobbling shot before it crossed the line for the visitors' equaliser. They then missed a glorious chance to take the lead from six yards. Leeds were glad to hear the whistle for the second interval to re-group.

The South Yorkshiremen did indeed go ahead just a minute later, when some dozy Leeds defending allowed Rotherham's striker to poke home. Heads dropped and a scrappy period of play followed, with Leeds early crisp passing now a distant memory.

But they rescued a draw thanks to a long free kick which set jet-heeled forward Lewis clear of the defence, and he rattled an angled low drive into the corner.

In a frantic finale, Alfie Dawes hit two shots wide and had another saved before Rotherham somehow headed over from right underneath the crossbar.