

LEEDS B V SHEFFIELD – WEST YORKSHIRE LEAGUE 02/10/2021

The first day of October brought a distinctly autumnal chill to proceedings at Leeds' Schools' home ground. As the dark clouds parted for kick-off, it felt like a good omen for the under 11 B Team's first league fixture.

In the opening third the players didn't disappoint, starting strongly against Sheffield Schools' FA. Fluid passing between Logan Kingswood, Brodie Varley and Kai'nelle Rose Hunt showed what a threat the team is becoming, with Jane Turay's quick feet keeping the opposition on their toes. Sheffield's first serious goal attempt was denied in the ninth minute by a fine diving save by Freddie Prudhames-Slatter. Jacob Keddie's aggressive tackling in the centre ensured there were no more close calls and it was 0-0 by the end of the first third. A goal for the dominant Leeds team seemed inevitable.

The second third saw a transformation in Sheffield's performance. A goal line clearance by Flynn Hodges denied them a 24th minute opener, while defenders Liam Moore, Yi Zhe Gao and Arthur Spiers worked hard to shackle Sheffield's attacking prowess. Eventually the pressure told and Sheffield scored the opener in the 37th minute. It remained 1-0 until the end of the second third, but Leeds' supporters remained optimistic that the home side's goals would come.

It was not to be. In the final third, an early second goal from Sheffield appeared to knock Leeds' confidence. Hope fleetingly came, when a 45th minute corner for Leeds led to a graceful volley by Dougie Jackson that skimmed the cross bar. Two more goals were conceded in the final ten minutes, leaving players and supporters bewildered by the 4-0 scoreline.

Despite the result, the match left players, parents and coaches with plenty to be optimistic about. Leeds' coach Callum Postle was effusive in his praise: "We were excellent for the first 40 minutes. Every player showed fantastic commitment and did exactly what I asked of them and more. There are definitely a lot of positives to take from today and we will only get better."