

Leeds Schools FA U13 Boys 7-1 Scunthorpe Boys – 30.11.2024

It was match day four in the group stage of the ESFA National Cup for Leeds' U13 Boys this weekend. They faced a Scunthorpe side, who they had beaten comfortably in the league last month, needing a win to ensure qualification for the knockout stages.

Playing on a heavy surface, both sides struggled to move the ball quickly meaning this was never going to be a day for fast, attractive football.

Leeds went ahead early on with Harry Durbin arriving for the right wing to tap in Lucas Horne's cross from the opposite flank. Scunthorpe responded by pressing hard and, but for a great goalkeeping recovery from George Marsden, came close to equalising soon after.

Leeds began to assert themselves as the half wore on. Joe Secker's move to the right flank paid dividends straight away as he produced a stylish, lobbed finish with the Scunthorpe keeper in no man's land.

Scunthorpe continued to threaten down their right hand side but Leeds' defence was more than equal to everything they had with Ernie Browes and Rafa Burton standing firm.

Leeds produced more efforts on goal with Sam Sharp driving forward from his deep midfield position and went in at half time with a three-nil lead thanks to Markluy Frimpong's composed finish.

Leeds came out in the second half with more energy and were moving the ball more effectively and quickly. Some great link up play in the attacking third brought more attempts on goal from Sharp and midfield dynamo Jacob O'Flaherty.

Leeds continued to work hard on depleted resources. An injury to Jack Swift meant that all fit and available players were now on the pitch.

Leeds made it four after a fine strike from Sharp who was enjoying acres of space in central midfield.

Scunthorpe pulled one back against the run of play but it was never going to be enough. Further attacking forays into the opposition box were rewarded with a penalty kick after Frimpong was brought down. Sam Sharp stepped up with ice in his veins to score his second from the spot.

After some great footwork from Ethan Alam down the right hand side, Frimpong got his second as Scunthorpe failed to clear their lines. The final gloss was put on the win when Lucas Horne leapt like a salmon to score a fine header from corner just minutes from time.

Four wins from four means Leeds progress from the group stages with a game to spare. The knockout Round of 16 awaits in the new year.