

Huddersfield u12's v Leeds u12's Location: Warrenside Sports Complex, Bradley, Huddersfield.

We arrived at Warrenside for the second league fixture of the season to a bright, cold November morning. The pitch looked surprisingly soft even though we had had the first ground frost of the winter the night before. As Robin Cousin's volunteered to run the line for the jovial referee we realized the boys were in for some skating lessons on the extremely slippery pitch.

Leeds started in the confident fashion we have become accustomed to with some quality inter passing play in midfield between Saul and Harrison. As the Huddersfield defense struggled to settle down openings arose to allow both Alfie and Harrison to test the keeper with shots from outside the box.

A hopeful long ball from Huddersfield found their forward on the edge of the Leeds penalty area, Fin Wade was quick to respond but found himself almost stranded as the ball was pulled back neatly and fired over the bar.

Leeds continued to dominate proceedings and keep possession as the ball was switched from side to side stretching the team in blue. With a burst of pace Joel ran at the Huddersfield defense only to be brought down on the edge of the box. The keeper saved Harrison's free kick.

Nineteen minutes in to the first period Cole picked up a ball on the left wing and with some great feet, danced through three Huddersfield boys in to the box, looked up and confidently side footed the ball in to the bottom corner. 0-1

Leeds continued to dominate, winning a string of corners superbly executed by Jack Teahan and his left foot. A great defensive header clears one of the corners only to be picked up by Cole who shoots from outside the area giving the keeper no chance. 0-2

As the first period drew to a close Leeds looked very much in control, Fin didn't have a shot to save.

As the second period started, Jay, Josh, Ross and Archie joined the field.

The pressure continued to mount with attack after attack, Saul fired over the bar, Josh powered towards the Huddersfield back line, Jay shot from inside the box, the keeper unable to hold on to it and Ross *the predator* Allison, always poised for slightest mistake, made it 0-3 with tap in.

The Wade keepers swapped on 39 minutes as Jack replaced Fin and it became apparent the ref was playing two 30 minute half's and not the three 25 minute periods we had been used to so far this season.

In the 41st minute Huddersfield got their first corner, only to be cleared by Jack T and the ball dispatched back up to the other end of the pitch.

All the play now seemed to be in the final third of the pitch as Leeds further expressed their authority, Ross showed great control as he turned, shot and forced another great save. From a Leeds throw in the ball was cleared, but only as far as Alfie, midway between the penalty area and the half way, who struck a sweet first volley in to the bottom left corner of the net. 0-4

As the game entered the final 10 minutes it got harder to pass and move as the slippery surface resembled something from It's a Knockout!

The match was a comfortable win for Leeds. On a decent surface the score would have been very different, and the only real challenge for the team were the conditions.