

U11 B Leeds Schools FA 1 – 1 Bradford Schools FA 28th January 2023

Leeds had to regroup and gather their positive thinking after last week's semi-final defeat. They faced a tough outfit in Bradford and both teams were motivated by the prospect of this game.

Bradford started the game and kept the ball well in midfield. Leeds were chasing in the initial few minutes, but quickly grew in to the game with some fantastic passing play from Jonah Reed, George Croston and Ethan Duckworth.

Matthew Bilmen was a threat from the very beginning, causing problems for the solid defence of Bradford. 10 minutes in to the game and Matthew Bilmen had a couple of half chances that just went wide. Leeds were coming in to the game and started to utilise their wide players. 15 minutes in to the game and Hiyabeal Haptai showed great feet, taking on three players and created another opportunity for the Leeds side.

Defensively, Leeds were looking good. Strong full back play from Sonny Davies and Joshua Kibwana kept Leeds pushing out wide and the two rocks of the team Oliver Grayston and James Chalk formed a great partnership in the middle. The game was even at half time and both teams struggled to break the deadlock. **HT 0-0.**

Leeds kicked off the second half and the game started with both teams showing their intention to go and win the game. Some strong challenges accompanied with some verbal feedback for the ref, meant it would be difficult to control. However, Leeds were excellent listening to the ref and the man in the middle showed his class.

Changes were made from Mr Postle and his coaching team, bringing on Max Grant, Isaac Gibson and Ethan Alem. Immediately these changes showed promise and Leeds went on to have another dangerous looking attack, which just went wide. Bradford needed to make changes themselves and once they did, the midfield created a great chance, where George Marsden pulled off an outstanding save on to the post. This came out to the oncoming striker who managed somehow to keep the ball in play and cross the ball, to a Bradford player who tapped the ball home. **1-0 Bradford.**

George Marsden kept the Leeds side to 1-0, his instinctive saves were proving the difference at this point and Bradford were pushing for a second. Eventually things calmed down and Leeds settled on the ball, creating a chance with only 6 minutes to go. Isaac Gibson stayed onside and crossed the ball, where Ethan Duckworth back post smashed the ball in to the roof of the net. **1-1**

With only a few minutes left Max Grant was making a nuisance of himself with the Bradford defence. They showed their frustration and Grant was doing his job well. The back 4 of Leeds kept things tight and Leeds pushed for a winner. Jonah Reed again showed his pace with more great runs in and out of the midfield. Bradford couldn't break the Leeds outfit down again and the game ended with a fair result 1-1.