

Leeds Schools FA 6 – 1 East Riding



Leeds Schools FA started their first home appearance on Saturday vs East Riding. The last time these two teams met, East Riding came out victorious with a 4-1 win. Leeds wanted revenge and from the moment they stepped out onto the field, you could see the boys were up for the challenge ahead.

From the kick off East Riding started the brightest and had the majority of possession. Leeds stood their ground and after a couple of minutes, came in to the game. 2 minutes in to the game Max Grant found Ethan Alem with a lovely through ball and unfortunately it just went wide. Leeds pressed the East Riding defence and Matthew Bilmen dribbled past 3 players and hit the shot just wide. It was all Leeds at this point and the coaching staff were pleased with what they were witnessing. 5 minutes in and Hiyabeal Habtai went down the line causing the East Riding defence problems, crossing the ball which landed in to the keepers hands, only for him to spill the ball straight in to the path of the menacing Max Grant, who tapped home the opening goal. 1-0.

Leeds kept pressing and making it extremely difficult for East Riding to get in to the game. Ethan Alem and Matthew Bilmen continued to work well together and got the ball out wide to Hiyabeal Habtai, who then made an inside pass to George Croston, who then shot but agonisingly missed. 12 minutes in to the game and Leeds were bossing the game, defensively looked solid and the football was pleasing on the eye. The full backs for Leeds started to push forward and Sonny Davies rifled a long range shot towards goal, but just went off target. East Riding started to try and get forward, but each time were met by Yellow shirts. 14 minutes in and Oliver Grayston showed great feet on the halfway line beating two East Riding players and then passing to the energetic Matthew Bilmen, who hit a powerful driving shot, but again just missed the target.

15 minutes in to the game and the keeper of Leeds George Marsden got his first touch of the game. East Riding tried to push forward but never really troubled the confident keeper. He collected the ball from an attack and distributed it with ease for Matthew Bilmen to

make it 2-0 Leeds. East Riding kept pushing for a goal, but never really troubled the defensive trio of Oliver Grayston, Sonny Davies and James Chalk. With Leeds looking strong at the back, George Croston could move forwards and support the midfield and strikers. He continued to pull the strings in midfield and Leeds looked comfortable. Max Grant up front started to come deep for the ball and continued to be a handful for the East Riding outfit. 18 minutes in and George Croston hit a delightful strike to make it 3-0 and keeper had no chance.

21 minutes and Max Grant put Hiyabeal Habtai in on goal, only the keeper to beat, Hiyabeal hit the target but a great save prevented East Riding going further behind. Leeds made changes to freshen up the game and introduced Joshua Kibwana, Henry Kidd and Isaac Gibson. This certainly made a difference and once again Max Grant, collected the ball deep, putting Matthew Bilmen in for another chance. The shot came in and ended up in the bottom corner. 4-0. Ethan Duckworth continued to stay strong and causing issues for the East Riding midfield.

29 minutes and East Riding were on top. They continued to get back in to the game, but Leeds defence looked unbeatable. Intricate passing and possession of the ball, made Leeds look determined to seek another goal. Leeds pressed further in to the game, but a rare counter attack from East Riding provided them with an opportunity, as they were awarded a penalty on 31 minutes. George Marsden stood firm and gave the East Riding striker the eyes, he stepped forward and hit the post. Isaac Gibson continued to cause a threat out wide and he was certainly an outlet at this point in the game. Corner to Leeds and the ball came out to Josh Kibwana, who took it first time and the shot just went over the bar.

The game went in to the last 20 minutes and the coaching staff of Leeds, made more changes to freshen up the team. Leeds continued to maintain the majority of possession, but the game started to become scrappy at times. 52 minutes in to the game and James Chalk made some superb challenges, showing true grit and determination. Leeds pushed for more goals, but had to be careful as East Riding were a threat on the counter. 55 minutes gone and the opposition finally had a break through. East Riding made it 5-1.

The last 5 minutes of the game, East Riding pushed and made it difficult for Leeds. However, a counter attack from the home side and great running from Ethan Duckworth created a chance and the Leeds player got brought down. Penalty to Leeds. Isaac Gibson stepped up and slotted the ball home in to bottom corner to make it 6-1.

Overall, Leeds fully deserved the win and were the better side. Some fantastic performances and tantalising football played by Leeds. Well done lads!