



### Yorkshire Cup Quarter Final East Riding 1 – 3 Leeds Schools FA

Leeds went into this game on the back of a good winning streak and you could see the positivity on the players faces, as they entered the fray.

Leeds started the brightest and within seconds had an early chance from Matthew Bilmen, who ran close to the opponents box and hit a pile driver that just went over the goal. Once again the midfield linked well together and displayed some scintillating stuff. George Croston, Ethan Duckworth, Hiyabeal Habtai, and Ethan Alem were in synch with each other, strolling the ball around and creating real attacking opportunities. Again, the powerful figure of Matthew Bilmen went through the defence and had another great chance, only to be denied by the East Riding keeper. The opponents then had a chance to make the home support cheer, their striker went through and hit a clever shot towards Leeds goal, but the outstanding keeper George Marsden stood strong deflecting the shot on to the post and Leeds kept it at 0-0. Ethan Alem and George Croston continued to keep pulling the strings in midfield, making Leeds dominant in the middle of the park.

With the Leeds coaching staff trying to motivate the players from the side line, Leeds captain Sonny Davies, encouraged the lads on the pitch. Words of wisdom were heard and his determined attitude gave confidence to the other strong and resolute defenders of Oliver Grayston and Henry Kidd. Eight minutes in and Leeds continued to build the pressure with superb play out wide and when the ball came back inside Sonny Davies met the ball and hit a long range drive, only for it to be saved.

East Riding tried to push forward, but again they were met by a strong defensive back three. Oliver Grayston gathered the ball from an oncoming blue shirt and sent a lovely through ball to Matthew Bilmen up front, who cut inside to beat the defender and hit a lovely curling shot to the far corner, but once again denied by a very good East Riding keeper. Henry Kidd started to get forward from full back and his excellent decision making put Leeds into some very good opportunities.

It was 0-0 after 20 minutes and the Leeds coaching staff made changes. On came Joshua Kibwana, James Chalk, Isaac Gibson and Jonah Reed. Straight away the impact was evident to all, when Hiyabeal Habtai went down the line, put in a superb cross and Jonah Reed was there to score with a smart finish. **GOAL 1-0 Leeds (Reed).**

East Riding kept going and from time to time put some lovely football together and created chances. 30 minutes in and they had another great opportunity. The shot came in and who else but the ever dependable keeper George Marsden saved the day and caught the incoming effort. Two minutes later and Jonah Reed went through creating a 2 v 1 play and allowed Isaac Gibson to get forward and a shot off. Great effort from the young man but just went wide. Isaac Gibson looked a threat and every time he got the ball out wide, something happened. Two minutes later Isaac put in a fantastic cross shot and Ethan Duckworth got a toe to it and directed it in to the bottom corner. **GOAL 2-0 Leeds (Duckworth).**

38 minutes in to the game and Leeds were looking good for the win. The ever present James Chalk was putting in some great challenges and really ruffling the feathers of the East Riding midfield. One minute later and the ball came to Jonah Reed, he picked the defenders pocket and came out on top, his turn gave him a chance to take a shot and he did this with ease. **BANG!!** What a goal. **GOAL 3-0 Leeds (Reed)**

Jonah kept piling on the pressure up top and hit another great strike 41 minutes in. The ball curled and looked as though it was finding the top corner, but the ball hit the woodwork and went out. East Riding were riding their luck at times but kept pushing to find a goal. They created a good chance and with a tricky turn from the striker, he was brought down in the box. **PENALTY!!** East Riding then pulled a goal back with a well taken penalty. Nothing much the keeper George Marsden could have done. **GOAL 3-1 East Riding PENALTY.**

The home team then, found a new lease of life in the last 8 minutes. Joshua Kibwana was put under further pressure, but dealt with the quick East Riding wingers. Tackles and bodies were put on the line and Leeds made a change to tighten up the defence late on. Oliver Grayston came in to Centre Back and added strength and composure to see Leeds come away with a very good win and adding another game to their winning streak.

Overall, a brilliant win in the cup and some fantastic football played. The coaching staff were delighted with this win and went back to West Yorkshire in the semi-finals. Well done everyone. Job done!!