

# York Schools 4 v Leeds Schools A 1 – Match Report 15 October 2022

Venue: York University

Leeds squad:



From left to right: Lucas, Jacob, Kaian, Flynn, Spencer, Blaze, Connor, Raphael, Billy, Joseph, Charlie

## First half

Leeds Schools got the game underway, with Flynn Pryde, captain for Leeds, winning the toss and deciding to take kick off.

Conditions were perfect. The rain that greeted most of us in Leeds didn't make its way to York. Instead we had blue skies and a slight breeze.

Within the first couple of minutes York threatened, winning a corner. A decent ball was delivered into the box, Leeds failed to react and clear it straight away, giving York an opportunity which they were too slow to take advantage of, on this occasion!

Straight away, Leeds responded by going on the counter attack. Flynn, playing on the right, threaded a ball between York's defence to put Blaze through on goal. Blaze hit the target but the keeper did well to save it.

After the first few minutes of frantic play subsided, Leeds looked the livelier and more threatening team when they had the ball in York's half, switching the play with composure through Jacob O'Flaherty in centre midfield.

In the early stages Leeds did well to pin York in their half. A York clearance in an attempt to break the press, dropped to Raphael, just over the half way line. He stepped forward with the ball, got it out of his feet and had a shot from at least 30 yards which narrowly went wide past the left post.

Nearly 10 minutes in and Leeds continued to press. Billy won the ball on the edge of the box, turned and got a shot off that the keeper did well to save to his right. Corner Leeds.

Corner from Leeds is delivered by Joseph Secker from the left and headed by Flynn at the back post towards goal. The ball deflected off a York player in the 6 yard box between a crowd of players and Blaze was the first to pounce and tap it into the back of the net.

One minute after the goal, Leeds continued to control the possession in the attacking third and got another corner. This time Joseph played a short corner to Kaian, who then passed it to Jacob in the middle of the pitch just outside the 18 yard box. Jacob worked it back out wide to Joseph who played in Billy who missed his chance inside the box, shooting wide. Good to see Leeds be creative with a short corner.

Two minutes later, goal York! Leeds were caught napping from a York throw-in deep in their own half. York took it quickly, throwing the ball into the 18 yard box for the York striker who was allowed the time to travel with the ball a few yards unchallenged before finishing low and hard into the far right.

Game on. York were back in it and look energized by the goal.

The next chance fell to York, coming from a long and high clearance by the goalkeeper, which Leeds allowed to bounce through and over the defence who were playing a high line with no cover in behind. Caught out by the bounce, Raphael found himself in a race with the York striker to win the ball. The York striker got to the ball first just outside the Leeds 18 yards box. Leeds keeper Spencer Grand, was quick off his line, narrowing the angle for the striker, who shot wide. From here, York started growing into the game.

Three minutes later, Leeds threaten down the right, with Flynn lofting the ball over the defence diagonally and into the box for Joseph who made a run from outside to in. The York keeper was quick to react and came off his line to get a hand to it, but it dropped to Joseph who was there to head it home. However, the referee deemed that Joseph was offside and the goal doesn't count.

Despite York's resurgence, Leeds continued to create chances with the best falling to Joseph on the left inside the 18 yard box. He did well to beat his player and then had the choice to square to Billy or Blaze for simple tap in or shoot. He decided to shoot's and his shot hit the side netting.

20 minutes in, Leeds make 3 substitutions. Flynn, Abdullah and Billy off for Connor, Charlie and Lucas.

Leeds continued to create chances through Charlie, who's looked lively since his introduction, and Jacob. However, both failed to hit the target and test the keeper. With more composure in front of goal, Leeds could have put this game to bed before half-time.

York still threatened with Leeds gifting them most of their chances. The best chance came just before half-time with free-kick on the right, midway inside the Leeds half. The delivery was perfect and a York player was given the space and time to head the ball from inside the box, unchallenged, towards goal. Thankfully, this time, the header didn't trouble Spencer in goals, who collects it with ease.

**Half time:** York Schools 1 – Leeds 1.

**Summary:** Leeds started the strongest, moving the ball about well from left to right and through the midfield into attack. They looked lively and pressed high to begin. However, the one moment that Leeds switched off, York took advantage and scored. Since then, Leeds continued to fashion chances but lacked the composure and clever decision making in front of goal. York grew in confidence as the half went on and were often helped by Leeds, who squandered possession in the last 10 minutes and chances throughout.

### **Second half**

York got the second half underway, and started on the front foot, getting a corner from their first attack.

The ball was delivered into the Leeds box. Leeds players left it for each other to clear but no-one took the initiative. York took advantage striking the ball towards goal. Leeds defender - Connor was in the way to block it but unfortunately in his attempt to clear the ball, it hit off the post and rebounded into the goal. Unlucky for Leeds but a result of indecision in the box. 2-1 York - who's tails were up now, with Leeds beginning to rue those missed chances in the first half.

Leeds tried to respond straight away. Joseph, now on the right, played a clever ball between the centre back and left back to put Charlie through inside the box. Unfortunately, he shot wide and Leeds missed another great opportunity to level the game.

Moments later, Leeds have another chance created from a clever long pass from Leeds keeper Spencer that puts Blaze through. The resulting shot is tame and doesn't trouble the keeper.

Leeds continued to search for a way back into the game with Jacob leading the charge in midfield. He won a 50/50 in the middle of the pitch and released Lucas down the left wing who played a pass between the lines for Blaze to chase down, but the York keeper is quick to react and clear. Moments later, Lucas was released down the left again, this time putting in a great cross, but York again are the quickest to react and clear it.

10 minutes into the second half and Leeds make 3 substitutions. Flynn comes on for Joseph on the right, Billy on for Blaze upfront, and Abdullah on from Raphael at the back.

Seconds later, York score. Abdullah is the last player in defence just over the half way line in the Leeds half, marking York's striker tightly. York simply play it in behind Abdullah, who was out paced by the York's number 7 that went to finish with composure into the bottom left.

Leeds tried to respond quickly, two minutes later - with the ball dropping to Jacob just outside York's 18 yard box. Jacob threaded the ball through to Lucas inside the 18 yard box. He hit the target but the keeper was equal to it.

With 10 minutes left, Leeds kept pushing to get back into the game. They had a few opportunities to threaten the York goal from corners, but the corners were now predictable and York simply cleared them or cut them out at the front post.

York soaked up the pressure and hit Leeds on the counter attack. Charlie made a great recovery run, eventually sliding in to stop an attack and to put the ball out for a York throw just inside Leeds half.

From the throw-in York continued down the left and got a corner. York delivered the ball into the box. Yet again Leeds were indecisive from a corner, allowed the ball bounce, a game of pinball ensued and York finished the game by popping it in from 5 yards out.

Straight way, Leeds went up the other end created another chance that fell to Charlie, who had time on the edge of the box to shot but unfortunately on this occasion it went high and wide.

A minute later, Leeds broke out of defence, Billy collected the ball on the half way line, turned and ran with it – out pacing the York defenders, finally arriving in the York box, but his shot was saved by the keeper.

The final whistle blows.

**Final score:** York Schools 4 – Leeds 1

**Summary:** Chances galore today which is a positive. But ruthlessness in front of goal was lacking. More composure and Leeds may have been leaving York with smiles on their faces. But that's football for you. If you don't take your chances and continue give the opposition chances at the other end, you tread a fine line.

Indecision, lapses in concentration, poor positioning in defence and finishing in front of goal, ultimately cost Leeds the game.

Lot's of positives and learning for Leeds Schools to take from this game which taken in the right way will only make them stronger and more prepared for the next one.