

## Leeds Schools FA 2 – 0 Grimsby Town Academy

### Nothing 'Fishy' about this result, as Leeds put Grimsby in their 'Plaice'

After last week's disappointing performance away at Barnsley, Leeds Schools Under 12's wanted to make amends against a very strong Grimsby Town Academy outfit. With an early kick off and a long journey ahead, the lads needed to get focused and as soon as they arrived, they looked to have the hunger for a win.

Straight from kick off, Leeds pressured the home team and didn't allow them to play. Jack Swift and Lucas Horne in midfield were pulling the strings and looked threatening when going forward. Swift had a few chances throughout the game and came very close, but the Grimsby keeper stood firm to deny the tenacious midfielder.

Leeds continued to attack the Grimsby defence and Billy Marsden was a constant menace, running through and making the Grimsby keeper work. Marsden had chances throughout the game and hit the woodwork twice. Leeds pushed and got their reward towards the end of the quarter when a shot came in and Lucas Horne timed his run to perfection, slotting the ball in to the back of net and sparked the celebrations with a knee slide in front of the fans.

Changes were made during the interval and Leeds continued their good form, keeping the ball and playing intricate passes, splitting the Grimsby midfield. Stevie Cochrane and Ethan Alam started with real emphasis to push for a second goal. Their relentless pressure along with strong tackles, helped Leeds create more openings and looked to their talisman Billy Marsden up front.

Grimsby did have a 10 minute spell, where they turned the Leeds defence and asked questions. However, Leeds response was excellent and they couldn't break down the back three of Kaian Windsor, Oliver Grayston and Rafael Burton. They stood firm and kept solid all game. Windsor pushed forward from full back and started to support the Leeds midfield. Burton matched his fellow teammate and his pace was no match for the opposition. Grayston held the line at Centre Back, his calm presence was evident and it was going to take something special to beat this backline. George Marsden in goal at this point was proving to be difficult to get past. His shot stopping and accurate kicking really did lift the Leeds outfit. Some great saves by George, keeping Leeds in it.

Leeds piled on the pressure after this and Joseph Secker was a nuisance out wide. Secker continued to torment the Grimsby winger and he weaved his magic to create some fantastic crosses and opportunities for his teammates. Leeds were playing with a real togetherness and the travelling support applauded every top class move. James Chalk continued to hunt down the Grimsby midfield and winning the ball to maintain possession. Chalk went in to every challenge wanting the ball and put his body on line for his teammates. Fantastic to see.

The second goal came late on in the third quarter, where Spencer Grand picked out Billy Marsden with a pin point accurate kick from his own penalty area. Billy continued his run and the Grimsby keeper had no other option but to bring down the Leeds striker. Marsden stepped up after an anxious wait and comfortably dispatched the penalty, making it 2-0 Leeds.

Leeds controlled the latter stages and passed the ball about, staying solid at the back. The game ended and away team celebrated in style. Mr Postle and his backroom staff were delighted with the result and look forward to the next game. Well done Leeds Schools FA U12's.