

ASA U16 Youth Boys Preliminary Round 2010

Report By Ron Winn



Lancaster were drawn in the Preliminary Round of the ASA Youth Boys Competition against Cheltenham, Hinckley and City of Birmingham

Lancaster first game was against Cheltenham a team like Lancaster with their Men's team in the 1st Division of the National league

The game started tensely as each set of players assessed the opposition. Lancaster were 1st to score through Mathew Calvert .Captain Elliott Trafford added a 2nd minutes later. Mathew continued the scoring as Cheltenham seemed to struggle against the Lancaster press. A fine goal from Mathew to completed a fine hat trick inside 3 minutes. Cheltenham was unable to create a scoring opportunity thanks to the hard work of the team with strong defensive play by Elliott, Ben Walker and Scott Sharpe. Another fine counter attack saw Mathew increase his tally to 4 as Lancaster led by 5-0.Elliott completed the scoring in the first half as the score finished Lancaster 6 Cheltenham 0

The 2nd half started well for Lancaster as they maintained the pressure on the Cheltenham defence with Sam Smith increasing the lead. As Lancaster continued to make changes to the line up concentration was lost for a few seconds and Cheltenham capitalised and scored their 1st goal. Elliott soon regained Lancaster's dominance with a fine goal. Sam scored his second as Lancaster dominated play. Lancaster's continued pressure was rewarded with a Cheltenham exclusion which Noel Howson converted to give Lancaster an unassailable lead with 2 minutes of the match remaining. Cheltenham exclusion gave James Alker chance to get his name on the score sheet. Cheltenham did manage a late goal to leave the final score Lancaster 11 Cheltenham 2

Lancaster second game was against Hinckley a new team to Lancaster.

Hinckley playing in the ASA Youth Boys for the first time found the competition a bit daunting. Lancaster's press was too much for the Leicestershire side as Lancaster dominated play.

Goals flowed at regular intervals, Hinckley were unable to create chances as Lancaster continued to counter attack at every opportunity. Lancaster playing of 11 players for the tournament changed the team regularly without affecting the performance.

Lancaster got of to a flying start with goals from Mathew Calvert (3), Sam Smith (2). Luke Saul score a fine counter attack goal followed by 2 well taken 5 metre goals from James Alker .Another fine swim and shot from Luke gave Lancaster a 9 goal lead. Noel Howson registered his first goal of the game, a further 2 goals from the prolific Mathew gave Lancaster a 12 goal lead at half time.

Lancaster continued to rotate their players and score freely. Noel scored 2 early goals, Elliott Trafford playing a steadying defensive role with Ben Walker. Scott Sharpe scored his first of the game. Luke showing his prowess as a swimmer repeated his first half goal. Sam scored a

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further 2 goals as Lancaster completely dominated play. Elliott 2 and James 1 completed the Lancaster scoring

The score at the end of the game was Lancaster 22 Hinckley 0.

Lancaster's last game of the Tournament was against City of Birmingham.

These 2 teams had gone through the tournament undefeated dominating all their games.

The game started well for Lancaster with Mathew Calvert scoring a fine goal to get Lancaster up and running. The game was far from easy as Birmingham made the Lancaster defence work hard. Good centre forward play saw Lancaster awarded a penalty; alas they failed to convert the shot. Lancaster continued to forge forward and was soon rewarded with a Birmingham exclusion, Scott Sharpe pounced quickly to score from the man advantage. Another Birmingham exclusion gave the same player the opportunity to increase Lancaster's lead which he duly obliged. The first half finished Lancaster 3 City of Birmingham 0

Birmingham determined to get back in the game scored early in the 2nd half. Lancaster continued to harass the Birmingham defence and forced a Birmingham exclusion. Noel Howson scored from the resultant man advantage. Mathew scored a well taken counter attack goal followed by a powerful swim wrestle and shot from Noel. Lancaster was building a commanding lead as Lancaster's coach started to rotate the team. Lancaster's defence was dominating the Birmingham forwards Led by Elliott Trafford who was keeping a close eye on Birmingham's main threat. Aply supported by the astute Ben Walker, excellent cover play by Luke Saul, Scott Sharpe and James Alker allowed Noel, Sam and Mathew to press forward. Dominic Lock and Andrew Burch played their part in the Lancaster cause maintaining a tight press. Kamil in goal coped with the goal threats from the Birmingham forwards with great confidence. Lancaster continued to press forward as Birmingham rallied, Fine counter attack goal by Noel Howson gave Lancaster a 6 goal lead. Birmingham not giving up the cause scored to make the score 7-2 to Lancaster with 2 minutes to play. Elliott Trafford completed the scoring to give Lancaster a well earned victory of Lancaster 8 Birmingham 2.

The final score Lancaster 8 Birmingham 2

The Lancaster team Kamil Plucinski, Ben Walker(1), Noel Howson(7), James Alker(4), Elliott Trafford(6), Scott Sharpe(3), Luke Saul(3), Dominic Lock, Mathew Calvert(11), Andrew Burch, Sam Smith(6)

The team's next game is on 27th and 28th March where Lancaster will meet Birmingham, Dunfermline and Watford in the Qualification round.