



## Chip off the old Block

Lancaster City kicked off their senior North Lancashire League season, affectionately known as “the Chip shop League” to its participants with an amalgamation of their academy, junior and youth teams against the new boys Lancaster University. The University side coached by Lancaster City’s Gary Ellwood and the Lancaster City side coached by Zak Sly, had their own little battle taking place as both coaches normally work together on the poolside for Lancaster City, but tonight were also going head to head.

With this Lancaster City rested their seniors and put in a younger team than normal. The side consisted of the goalkeeper who is twenty two, two eighteen year olds, five sixteen year olds, two fifteen year olds and three fourteen year olds, Lancaster started off strong, with Decland Ellwood putting the first goal on the match sheet scoring from the pit. Lancaster University quickly played the ball into the pit only to see Sam Liver steel the ball, with two quick passes down to the pit and a slick return ball from Decland Ellwood, Robert Simpsons blasted the ball past the university goalkeeper Chris Morrish. Lancaster City pressed hard but a quick drive from Lancaster University player Stewart Moore saw him place his first North Lancashire League goal on the score sheet. For the rest of the quarter Lancaster City kept up a strong defence denying the new boys any more goals, the match ebbed and flowed with City’s Centre forward Decland Ellwood adding two more goals to his tally and Michael Brown slotting home his first two goals of the night. By the end of the first quarter City 6 – 1 to the good.

With Lancaster already five goals ahead Lancaster coach, Zak Sly split his 12 players into two teams, each playing four minutes a quarter. Lancaster quickly carried on the scoring with Michael Brown adding a further two more goals less than a minute apart. Lancaster City kept up a strong defence with Stefan Detko taking up a new position in pit defence. Stefan played a strong press denying the pit attacker the ball. Jake Starkie made a break and scored his first goal followed quickly by number two with Michael and Decland also adding more goals to the sheet. The university then had a break but City fought back unfortunately conceding a penalty, University Captain Simon Rigby confidently Bounced the penalty ball into the back of the net, finishing the second quarter on City 12 University 2.

The third quarter started off with a City exclusion but their sterling defence work denied a goal scoring opportunity to the University side, another good break from City allowed Decland Ellwood to another goal with Sam Smith and Elliot Trafford also putting away two goals each. Stefan Detko, Sam Liver, Robert Simpson, Luke Saul, Lawrence Daykin and Lancaster goalkeeper Zak Sly worked hard in defence and denied the University any further scoring chances in the third quarter making the score City 17 University 2.

The final quarter started off with Michael Brown scoring another goal eleven seconds in. Youngster James Alker who had been working hard in defence powered home a stunning 6 meter goal into the top corner of the net followed by another well worked individual goal seconds later. The University captain Simon Rigby replied with a quick counter attack to score his second goal, University coach Gary Ellwood Steadied his troops and some solid possession followed but to no avail, City replied with Michael and Decland closing their accounts for the night with their final goals. Lancaster Universities final goal came from Simon Rigby’s superb counter attack which saw him score his third goal of the night, with a flurry of attacks City surged forward and seeing his fellow

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academy player James Alker score early in the quarter, 14 year old Ben Walker took an unusual foray forward and added two goals to his teams tally, Sam Smith scored the final goal of the game with 11 seconds remaining on the clock. The final score was 25 – 4.

Lancaster City's coach Zak Sly said "City's young guns kept up Lancaster's fine tradition in this league with what can only be described as outstanding team effort".

Gary Ellwood the University coach left the poolside muttering under his breath something about Training Harder.

Lancaster City team: Zak Sly (GK), Sam Liver, Lawrence Daykin, Michael Brown (7), Elliot Trafford (2), James Alker (2), Robert Simpson (1), Ben Walker (2), Luke Saul, Decland Ellwood (5), Jake Starkie (3), Sam Smith (3) and Stefan Detko

Lancaster University Team: Simon Rigby(3), Stewart More(1), Dan Boyd, Jake Thornton, Ben Jennings, Chris Morrish, Stephen Moulton, Dan Korcz, Ian Rushton, Alistair Grubb, Michael Houghton