



Lancaster youth team qualify

Lancaster losing finalist in 2010 started the quest for more Trophies in Liverpool at the Aquatic Centre.

Lancaster's first game was against Durham, a team trying to re-establish itself in National Youth competitions after years of being the forgotten team of the 1970's.

Lancaster started very positively with Noel Howson scoring after 20 seconds; Captain Ben Walker was quick to follow as Lancaster totally dominated play. Further goals from Tom Grieve, Lewis Peach and 2 more from Tom gave Lancaster an early advantage. Durham found it difficult to compete as Lancaster Youths were rampant. Noël, Adam Woods and Tom increased Lancaster's lead. Lancaster's continuous pressure resulted in Durham conceding a penalty which Sam Routledge converted. 2 quick goals from Scott Sharpe before Durham scored before the 1st half ended.

Score at half time:-Lancaster 11 Durham 1.

The procession towards Durham goal continued in the second half. Noel was first to score followed by Sam, Tom and Scott. Durham were struggling against the Lancaster pace and further goals followed from Sam, 3 goals from Scott and the last goal of the game from Noel.

Final Score Lancaster 21 Durham 1

Goal scorers Scott Sharpe (6), Noel Howson (3), Sam Routledge (4), Tom Grieve (6), Lewis Peach (1) and Adam Woods (1)

Lancaster's second game was against the much improved Sheffield. Lancaster under instruction from Coach Gary Ellwood started very confidently. Noel Howson got Lancaster goal machine running with the opening goal. Strong centre forward play by Noel resulted in Lancaster scoring 3 quick goals. Lancaster's constant forward pressure resulted in Sheffield conceding a penalty which Sam Routledge converted with confidence. Sam was again on the score sheet as the Lancaster team kept Sheffield on the back foot with their continuous counter attacks. The first half finished with Tom Grieve scoring his first of the game.

Score at half time:-Lancaster 6 Sheffield 0.

The second half started better for Sheffield as they registered their first goal. Lancaster responded immediately through Noel. Sheffield showed great resilience as they scored their second only to find Sam Routledge restoring Lancaster 6 goal advantage. Scott Sharpe increased Lancaster lead only for Sheffield to have the last goal of the game.



Final Score: - Lancaster 9 Sheffield 3.

Goal scorers Scott Sharpe (1), Noel Howson (4), Sam Routledge (4)

Lancaster's third game was against a strong Castleford side. Castleford a new team to the National youth competition played Lancaster in the Academy National final in 2010 losing narrowly in an exciting game.

Lancaster started well with good controlled attacking play. Both teams found it hard to score as the defences took control.

As Lancaster pressed forward Ben Walker found space in front of goal to open the scoring for Lancaster. Scott Sharpe followed Ben on to the score sheet with an extra man goal after Castleford had a player excluded. Lancaster then had a player excluded and Castleford score from the resultant extra man. Lancaster continued to press forward and strong forward play by centre forward Noel Howson increased Lancaster's lead. This was proving to be a tough encounter as Castleford scored again to leave the score at half time **Lancaster 3 Castleford 2.**

Castleford were first to score in the second half to level the score. 2 quick goals for Lancaster from Noel and Sam Routledge restored Lancaster's 2 goal advantage. Lancaster now in the ascendancy scored again through Noel. Strong attacking pressure by Castleford resulted in Lancaster conceding a penalty. Noel restored Lancaster's 3 goal advantage with a fine centre forward goal. Castleford were not yet beaten as they scored with a long shot with still 2 minutes of the game to go. Lancaster however managed to pin Castleford back on the defence but were unable to increase their lead.

Final Score Lancaster 7 Castleford 5

Goal scorers Ben Walker (1), Scott Sharpe (1), Noel Howson (4), Sam Routledge (1)

The Lancaster team Kieran Harrison, Ben Walker, Scott Sharpe, Noel Howson, Sam Routledge, Tom Grieve, Luke Saul, Andrew Robinson, Lewis Peach, Adam, Woods, Sebastian Reichel Josh Barrett, Dominic Lock