

ASA U14 Academy Boys Final 2010 Report By Ron Winn



The final was contested between Lancaster and Castleford.

Castleford a new side to Lancaster and being coached by products of the National Academy Training Centre and the ASA Water Polo coaching initiative

As the 2 teams lined up for the presentation for the final, the Castleford and Lancaster coaches exchanged pleasantries. As the 2 sets of coaches departed to their respective ends to start the game a Castleford Coach said as a throw away remark that Castleford had never been beaten at this age group.

The game started with Lancaster taking an early lead through Sam Routledge .Lancaster soon realised they were in for a tight contest as Castleford pressed forward. Both sides continued to press forward on their possession and it was Lancaster to score again as Tom Grieve opened his account of the final .The pressure was mounting and Castleford were rewarded with a Lancaster exclusion which Castleford took full advantage. Castleford continued to press the Lancaster defence and were soon level as the Lancaster defence lost concentration. Lancaster responded positively with first Sam and then Tom restoring the Lancaster 2 goal advantage. Castleford not to be outdone reduce the deficit to 1 goal before half time.

The 2nd half started well for Lancaster as Sam scored after a Castleford player had been excluded .Castleford pressed forward and scored as Lancaster failed to cover a counter attack. The game continued at apace despite both sets of players having played 3 previous games in the day. Both side forged forward at every opportunity with Castleford forcing 2 Lancaster exclusions. The Lancaster defence stood proud as they rebuffed the Castleford onslaught. Castleford 1 goal down and time running out were applying heavy pressure to the Lancaster defence. Lancaster coach called a timeout to steady Lancaster's concentration. As Lancaster reformed Castleford forged forward and in the last seconds of the Final they scored to take the game into extra time.

Lancaster started again quickly with Sam scoring after fine team build up play. Castleford sped forward and forced a Lancaster exclusion which they scored to level the scores .Lancaster instantly repeated Castleford's play and force a Castleford exclusion which Tom scored from. Tom scored again in the last seconds of the 1st period of extra time to give Lancaster a 2 goal lead.

The 2 teams now feeling the effects of a hard day lined up for the final period. It was Lancaster first to react as Tom Grieve stole the ball just inside the Lancaster half and executed a perfect lob to give Lancaster a 3 goal cushion. Lancaster now more determined to finish first pressed forward and was rewarded with the final goal of the game from Tom

Lancaster is the 2010 ASA ACADEMY BOYS Champions

The winning team:- Dominic Lock, Josh Barrett(3), Sebastian Reichel(3), Sam Routledge(18), Tom Grieve(17), Andrew Robinson(4), Zak Lamb, Joe Barker(3), Dean Akister(1), Stuart Burch, Adam Courtley, James Pratt(1).