

## ASA U14 Academy Boys Preliminary Round 2010 Report By Ron Winn



Lancaster were drawn in the Preliminary Round of the ASA Academy Boys Competition against Sheffield, Invicta and City of Birmingham

Lancaster first game was against Sheffield a team like Lancaster with a history of National league at the top level

The Lancaster side was a combined side with players from Carlisle, Lancaster and Sedgefield. The combination of the 3 clubs allows the team to compete better with the Large City sides.

The game started well for Lancaster as Tom Grieve scored from the 1<sup>st</sup> attack, followed by Joe Barker getting his 1<sup>st</sup> of the tournament. Tom scored his 2<sup>nd</sup> before Captain Sam Routledge opened his account. Sam realised that he could have a major influence on the game and started to dominate play. His tireless work rate together with the support play of the rest of the team saw Sam score 4 goals in quick succession. Tom netted his 3<sup>rd</sup> of the game as the Lancaster superior fitness took control of the game. Sebastian Reichel scored his 1<sup>st</sup> of the tournament to make the score Lancaster 9 Sheffield 0. Two further goals from Sam and 1 from Sebastian gave Lancaster a 12 goal lead at half time

Lancaster's hunger for goals continued the goal rush with Sam Routledge being lethal every time he forged forward, he scored in the opening seconds of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Lancaster's coach Gary Ellwood had been rotating the players from the start of the game allowing key players to rest. Andrew Robinson scored his 1<sup>st</sup> before Tom added to his tally. Dean Akister scored a well executed goal for his 1<sup>st</sup> of the tournament. On a rare Sheffield attack saw they rewarded with a goal. Lancaster however continued to press forward with Tom scoring after good team build up play. Josh Barrett scored to make the score 18-1 to Lancaster midway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. Lancaster continued to attack and was rewarded with 2 more goals from Sam and 1 from Tom. The final score being Lancaster 21 Sheffield 1

Lancaster's 2<sup>nd</sup> game against Invicta saw the home side pitted against one of the emerging sides of the National game. Invicta are involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> Beacon site in England centred at The Crystal Palace. Lancaster started strongly as the team surged forward buoyed by their confidence taken from the Sheffield game. Tom Grieve was first to score quickly followed by 2 from Joe Barker. Invicta not to be outplayed hit back with a good counter attack to score. The game was much more competitive than the Sheffield game as both sides threatened goal. Lancaster was next to score through Tom quickly followed by Invicta's 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lancaster now realised that they were going to have to work hard to win this game. As the game swung from end to end with misses from both sides the next goal was important. Lancaster scored through Tom to steady the Coaches nerves as he continues to ring the changes to find the strongest set of players. A late first half goal from Sam Routledge gave Lancaster a 4 goal lead at half time

Lancaster started the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with more confidence after the late goal rally of the first half. A fast counter attack saw Invicta have a player excluded and Sam scored from the man advantage. 30 seconds later Sam scored his 3<sup>rd</sup> of the game and when Sebastian Reichel scored Lancaster had assumed control of the game. Lancaster

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continued to press forward and was rewarded with further goals from Sebastian and 2 from Josh Barrett .The game finished with Tom scoring his 4<sup>th</sup> of the game. Final score Lancaster13 Invicta 2

Lancaster's last game of the preliminary round was against Birmingham, and fittingly it was the decider for which team played in the final or the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> play off. Both teams unbeaten in their previous games started the game positively. Lancaster were 1<sup>st</sup> to score through Tom Grieve followed by Birmingham scoring after Lancaster had lost the ball in mid bath. Birmingham pressed Lancaster hard and was rewarded with 2 Lancaster exclusions. Lancaster's defence stood proudly with Dominic Lock in goal preventing Birmingham taking advantage. The game flowed from end to end with neither team able to apply the final touch. Sam Routledge scored for Lancaster as reward from some positive Lancaster attacking play. Birmingham levelled the score just before half time to leave the score at half time Lancaster2 Birmingham 2.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started badly for Lancaster as Tom Grieve suffered an injury and left the pool for the game. Birmingham was awarded a penalty shortly after, which they scored and led for the first time. Lancaster reorganised their side and pressed forward. Good play by Josh Barrett as Birmingham suffered an exclusion from the resultant man advantage James Pratt scored to level the scores. Lancaster now started to forge forward and was rewarded with another Birmingham exclusion Andrew Robinson scored from the extra man situation. Lancaster now back in the lead and playing with such determination continued to press forward as Birmingham were pulling and tugging Lancaster players on every attack. Birmingham suffered another exclusion which gave Sebastian Reichel his first goal of the game. Lancaster continued to press forward and cause Birmingham defensive troubles.

The Birmingham coach called a time out to settle his side and force Lancaster to defend a set play. Lancaster with stood the Birmingham initiative and from a fast counter attack Sam Routledge scored to give Lancaster 3 goal lead. Within a few seconds Birmingham had reduced Lancaster's advantage to 2 goals. The last 2 minutes of the game would be tense as both sides could see the prospect of playing in the final looming before them. Both sides strived for the next goal, Birmingham to regain the initiative and Lancaster to ease their nerves. Solid defensive play saw Lancaster win the game by 6 goals to 4.The National Academy reigning Champions had reached the Final for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.