

North West Youth Alliance League Premier Division 2007-08

Salford City Youth V Woodley Sports Youth - 30th September 2007

HT: 0 - 0 FT: 0 -1

Scorers: Woodley, Jay Bebbington - 70 min

Squads:

Woodley Youth:

1. Dom Hughes, 2. Joel Atkinson, 3. Tom Sellers (C), 4. Dan Fradley 5. Mike Conoma, 6. Arran MacFarlane, 7. Jordi McNally, 8. Remi Wadley, 9. Jermaine Hunt, 10. Jack Wilson (Jason Wilde), 11. Jamie Sanckson

Subs: Rick White, 12. Jason Wilde, 14. Jason James, 16. Jordi McNally

Salford City:

To Follow

Subs: To Follow

The Youth squad travelled to Boothstown to take on Salford City who were unbeaten in their first four games of the season so everyone was fully aware that this was going to be a tough game especially off the back of Thursday nights gruelling extra time and penalties victory in the FA Youth Cup. Only one change was made to the starting line up from that game and it was Jay Bebbington who got his chance to start up front with Jordi McNally featuring on the bench.

Woodley started with a 4-4-2 and right from the start made it clear that they had come to win this game. Salford City were giving away numerous free kicks against both Jay and Jermaine who were doing a great job up front of holding up the ball. Salford City were always a threat when attacking and were making good runs into space but the Woodley players were extremely disciplined and never allowed anyone to get into any really dangerous positions unchecked. It was a fairly even game possession wise but Woodley always looked the more comfortable team and looked confident in possession. Both sides had a handful of corners and free kicks and although Woodley's deliveries were excellent we never managed to capitalise from them. Jamie Sanckson and Remi Wadley were causing a few problems on the wings and were backed up by the hard working Tom and Joel who were ever willing to join the attack from the full back positions. It was all coming good. Jamie Sanckson especially was having his best game so far and was covering the full length of the pitch putting in devastating crosses and tackling like a terrier.

HT: 0-0

Woodley came out for the second half looking to take the full spoils from this game and set about their business well. The work rate was fantastic considering that the majority of the players had played 120 minutes of high-octane football on the Thursday night. Positional discipline throughout the team has to be mentioned as Salford were never able to really find themselves in any clear space in which to operate and if they got past one player they were faced with another and yet another if needed. Again the back four were solid and confident

and with Dan Fradley and Jack Wilson competing and tracking so well in midfield they were getting excellent protection from any runs from the Salford midfield. Indeed some of the balls played through from the centre midfield were excellent and were turning the Salford back four.

Joel Atkinson was continually making runs from the right back position which was causing Salford problems and it was on the 70 minute mark that he picked up the ball mid way into the opposition half on our right and played a perfect diagonal cross ball over the opposing fullback where Jamie Sanckson had peeled of the player on his blind side and picked up the cross. He then carried the ball to the bye line and sent in a left foot delivery that left the keeper in no mans land at his near post and towards the far post where Jay Bebbington rose and nodded the ball down and into the bottom right corner of the net. A well-worked and well-taken goal.

Salford went quiet for a short while but responded by upping the tempo in their game and pressing for an equaliser. They pushed an extra man up front and this brought them some joy for a short period but the defence were working hard with Mike Conoma and Arran MacFarlane presenting a wall of defiance and so Woodley managed to get a grip of the game again and were looking comfortable and certainly capable of holding on to their lead. With about 8 minutes to go Jason Wilde replaced Jay Bebbington and joined the centre midfield giving Woodley a 4-5-1 formation. The game reached the end without any clear-cut chances carved out for either side and so Woodley recorded their first and much deserved win of the season.

To summarise Woodley put in an extremely solid defensive display coupled with the passing game that has eluded them thus far this season. Discipline, both positional and personal was excellent and to a man they worked for each other showing a great team ethic.

I feel I must also make a mention for the lads who did not take part today. They have all played their part so far in leading up to where we are at and it is healthy for the squad to see such a good attitude from everyone who has featured on the bench or has been omitted from the squad at times. It will be a long season with league and hopefully cup games and add injuries into the mix there will be ample opportunity for these lads to make their mark.

We would also like to thank everyone who travelled to support the lads.

FT: Salford City Youth 0 – Woodley Sports Youth 1