

Heavy defeat for UYSWC ladies

York women's water polo team suffered a humbling 11-3 defeat in their BUCS fixture away at the University of Leeds.

The York ladies were caught off-guard from the outset by the speed and skill of the Leeds attack, and quickly went a goal down. Several misdirected passes allowed Leeds through again and the deficit was soon doubled when the home side beat keeper Fran Falcini with a shot to the top corner. Captain Fiona Whiting attempted to regroup her squad, connecting well with Beth Richards and Sarah Peacop. York were caught on the counter-attack however, and finished the quarter trailing 3-0.

The second quarter started much more positively, with Becky Mott and Ellie Roche swimming well to support the York attack. Leeds eventually cracked, and Katherine Newton chalked up York's first goal of the game. The pressure continued, the home side scoring twice more despite some good saves from Falcini. Richards fired in a long range shot but Leeds broke the York defence soon after to go 6-2 up at the halfway point.

York went into the third quarter determined to reduce the gap, and had several opportunities fly agonisingly close to their mark. Leeds made the most of their opportunities when countering, and scored again to make it 7-2. A fantastic interception by player of the match Whiting inspired her team to press hard and forced an error from the home side, winning a penalty which Richards came close to converting. Leeds were quick to cut out loose passes and scored again to go into the final quarter with an 8-2 advantage.

The final quarter again went in favour of the home side, cutting through York's defence to score extend the lead further to 10-2. Richards outwitted the Leeds keeper to add a third goal for the visitors but the attacks were ruthless and the game ended 11-3 to Leeds.

After the game, captain Whiting felt her team 'got off to a slow start, and paid for several lapses in concentration', but says that the weaknesses will be worked on in the weeks to come.

YORK: Falcini, Richards, Peacop, Newton, Roche, Chidwick, Mott, Hall, Jordan, Worrell, Whiting (c)

Player of the Match: Fiona Whiting

