

Tough outing for men's polo

A heavy schedule played a part in the four defeats for UYSWC in their BUCS tournament this Wednesday.

Their first fixture of the day was against a strong Leeds Beckett side but York were on top at the start, an excellent steal by George Chambers setting up Ryan Jago for a shot which bounced just wide. Keeper Young Gawthorpe kept Leeds at bay with fantastic save but York were caught on the break just after and went a goal down. Leeds' lead was soon doubled after another quick counter-attack but this seemed to reignite York with close shots from both Chambers and Jack Jones. A heavy challenge from Jago led to a man down which York were unable to defend and Leeds made it 3-0. York continued to build well but the attacking pressure saw York conceding twice more before the break.

The second half started well, two big saves from Gawthorpe and some strong defending by Michael Hollihan Sarmiento and Sam Timpany keeping them in the game. Will Lawrence had a shot saved before Leeds scored again on the break. Man of the Match Chambers then opened the scoring for York and a cracking penalty from Jones made it two, but Leeds kept up the pressure and the game finished 7-2 to the visitors.

Next up was Newcastle and York flew out of the blocks, a narrow miss in the opening seconds from Jago after a pass from Rob Mason was followed up by Timpany hitting the post. Captain Gawthorpe continued his good form, saving a Newcastle shot to the top corner before Timpany set up Jago to break the deadlock. Jago doubled York's lead minutes later, with Man of the Match Matt Chapman holding off any Newcastle attack. It took almost seven minutes before Newcastle found their way past Gawthorpe, the half ending 2-1 in York's favour.

York started the second half shakily, caught off-guard by the restart and conceding almost immediately. Newcastle then took the lead after a corner was hesitantly defended. This seemed to revive York, a great steal from Jones and a pass from Lawrence to Timpany caused a Newcastle exclusion which York were unlucky not to score from. Jago was then wrapped up for diving in on a substitution and Newcastle took advantage of York's confusion to put two more past Gawthorpe. Timpany reduced the deficit after capitalising on a man up situation and Jones fired into the left corner to make it four for the home side but Newcastle held on and secured a 6-4 victory.

York's third fixture was against a fresh Northumbria side who were determined to make their mark early. Two excellent saves from Man of the Match Gawthorpe and strong defending from Jones and Jago kept the scoreline equal and Mason narrowly missed an opportunity to put the UYSWC boys in front. Northumbria were unforgiving however, and soon York found themselves three goals down. Good play between Chambers and Chapman

on a man up saw Jago's shot fly just over the crossbar before he was wrapped up. Northumbria jumped at the lapse in concentration and ended the first half 5-0 up.

York seemed revived after the break, James Curtis and Jones connecting well before Timpany scored a fantastic goal from the pit. Gawthorpe was then forced to make a great save from a shot 5m out but Northumbria scored from the rebound. Undeterred, an on-form Timpany won a foul and a quick pass set Chambers up for his second goal of the tournament. Theo Barber-Bany was defending well and York saw out the game at 6-2, winning the second half.

The final game of the tournament was a rematch against the much fresher Leeds Beckett side. Gawthorpe and Lawrence fended off the visitors' attacks for the first few minutes but they eventually found a way through and York found themselves 4-0 down. An excellent 1 v 1 shot was saved by Gawthorpe then led to a long shot from Chambers which was deflected in by Timpany. Leeds kept up the pressure and won a penalty which Gawthorpe saved but Leeds pounced on the rebound and scored.

York headed into the second half 7-1 down and Leeds quickly made it 8 despite the best attempts of Gawthorpe and Mason. Jago launched a shot past the unsuspecting Leeds keeper some good play from Crispin Halcrow set up another shot which just missed the target. York continued to press hard but were feeling the effects of the heavy schedule and conceded several times more on the break, the game ending 12-2 to Leeds.

Captain Young Gawthorpe felt there was much to be improved upon, but said that 'the tournament started well.'

YORK – Gawthorpe (C), Chapman, Jones, Chambers, Timpany, Jago, Lawrence, Mason, Curtis, Barber-Bany, Hollihan Sarmiento, Halcrow