

Sunday 10 May 2009

Ipswich & Suffolk U11 Open Cup Final, Waveney Youth U11A 5 Gorleston Rangers A 3

Waveney Youth U11A completed an historic cup double by defeating Gorleston Rangers in the final of the Ipswich & Suffolk Open Cup at Ipswich on Sunday. Waveney almost took a first minute lead when Philips' goalbound shot was blocked and this signalled a period of intense Waveney pressure before Meades came to their rescue with three smart stops, including a miraculous double save as Gorleston pressed. Just as it seemed the half would end goalless, the speedy Gallant twice beat the offside trap after fine through balls to surge clear and stylishly finish with two goals in as many minutes to give Waveney the advantage.

As expected, Rangers came out in determined fashion and the Waveney back four marshalled by Butler defended solidly. Nichols then swept the play to the other end and there was French to round off another fine Waveney move for the third. Back came Rangers and a defensive mix-up and a penalty brought them right back into it with two quick goals. In between, Nichols hit the post with a superb free-kick. Waveney then restored their two goal cushion when Mahoney burst clear to coolly add a fourth. With five minutes left, Gorleston were back in it when their number 9 struck from the edge of the box to make the score 4-3 to Waveney. With time running out, Waveney continued to push forward and in the last minute of stoppage time Woods slammed home their fifth and the exciting crowd now knew that the cup was heading up the A12 to Waveney making it a cup double to add to their League Cup success.

This was an exciting and tremendous match played in a fine spirit, well refereed by Ben Cattermole and resulting in a deserved victory for the talented Waveney side.