

Sunday 12 October 2008

N&SYL U11 Division One, Waveney Youth U11A 1 Gorleston Rangers A 2

Waveney Youth U11A put in their best performance of the season at Barnard's Meadow on Sunday and were most unfortunate to lose a closely-fought game against opponents who were awarded two penalties either side of half-time.

In a tense opening period, few chances were created and the home team defended superbly which created a good platform to press forward as the half wore on. French – whose pace caused problems for Rangers throughout – was released by Evans after good play by the excellent Sissen, and his thunderous right-foot shot rebounded off the crossbar for Phillips to sweep in the rebound to deservedly put the home team in front. Rangers remained dangerous on the break, however, and with four minutes of added time already played, what looked an innocuous challenge in the home area resulted in a penalty for the visitors which they duly converted.

Having defended Rangers' tactic of long balls through to their quick-footed centre-forward well, the home team were caught out by one such punt and keeper Meades, who was swiftly off his line collided with the Rangers' player and another penalty was awarded, which delivered the same outcome. Waveney fought back and in the final ten minutes created a number of chances. Mahoney's fine cross shot was pushed around the post for a corner and Welton and Butler had shots charged down. Lambert was then released by Phillips after good work by Woods but his shot was too close to the keeper and the chance was lost.

Waveney kept going to the end but could not engineer the breakthrough, and despite this setback there were many positives to take from their performance against good opponents.