
ESFA England Schoolboys U18 0 – 1 Welsh U18 Schoolboys

Centenary Shield / Match One

Friday 8th March 2019

Match Attendance – 785

Full Match - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a0It5jdyq0>

Late Centenary Shield drama at Slough Town's Arbour Park as Wales's Jack Wilson and Charlie Caton combine in the 92nd minute to break England hearts.



The opening exchanges looked positive for the England Schoolboys with the majority of the chances falling England's way. The first opportunity was well worked by Rule in the 9th minute when he picked up on a loose ball and after a mazy run into the box Rule saw his effort tipped round the near post.



England worked two more great chances, when firstly Sinclair pounced on the ball after some good harrying from Windsor that forced a Wales cough up of the ball, Sinclair then drove into the box and fired a shot low but the Wales keeper was equal to it. Just a minute later the second chance fell to Malila following a Sinclair cross to the Wales back post, the onrushing Malilia met the cross and thundered a header just wide of the Wales goal.



For the remainder of the first forty-five minutes England did well at nullifying all of Wales attacks in open play, however Wales still managed to look dangerous from set-piece situations. With the Welsh's free-kicks causing England the most problems, evidenced in the 41st minute when Wales's Wilson thought he had opened the scoring after poking home a knockdown from Wales's free-kick but Luckily for England he was adjudged offside and half time came with the scores tied at England 0 – 0 Wales.

Half Time – ESFA England Schoolboys U18 0 v 0 Welsh U18 Schoolboys

After the break the game became more of a cagey affair with both teams battling it out in the midfield and resorting to taking shots from distance, with England's Ross Johnstone stinging a shot from 25 yards out keeping the Welsh number one on his toes.



Towards the end of the game the Welsh had dropped off and seemed to have settled for a share of the spoils as England continued to probe for any potential opening.



Just as the game seemed to be destined for a scoreless draw, in the 92nd minute the Welsh number 7 Wilson found a second wind dribbling from the edge of his own box all the way into England's box, he was eventually tackled but after the ball was poked away from Wilson it fell to Wales's Caton who tucked the ball home, making it one nil to Wales. England pressed for a late equalising goal

however the Welsh defence stood strong and managed the game out for a one nil win.

Full Time – ESFA England Schoolboys U18 0 v 1 Welsh U18 Schoolboys

Heartbreak for England to lose to a 92nd minute goal however there was a lot of positives to take from the performance moving forward and on to the next Centenary Shield game. The 22nd of March England will head to Inverurie in the hope of three important points as they play their second Centenary Shield match against the Scots.