

## MIDLAND COUNTIES YOUTH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS (UNDER 18s)

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 2011 AT RAUNDS TOWN FC

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 1 - WORCESTERSHIRE 1

Worcestershire maintained their unbeaten start in the Midland Counties Youth Football Championships with a well earned draw against Northamptonshire at a blustery Raunds Town FC.

Northamptonshire's goalkeeper Danny Wallis was the first to be tested in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute when he comfortably held a 20 yard shot from the visitors skipper Connor Smith. However it was the hosts who took the lead on 12 minutes when a misplaced pass in midfield put Luke Fairlamb clear and hesitancy in defence saw the ball rebound off 'keeper Joshua Smith's legs to leave Fairlamb with a simple tap in.

Worcestershire missed a great chance to equalise within two minutes when Smith's long clearance downfield found James Shembri clear on goal but his attempted lob failed to clear 'keeper Wallis.

Worcestershire were now enjoying the better of possession with Oliver Butler and Connor Smith prominent, whilst up front Shembri saw three efforts either saved or blocked in a 5 minute spell as the visitors sought an equaliser.

At the other end Northamptonshire gained their first corner kick on 32 minutes and as half time approached they came close to doubling their advantage when a quick break saw Antar Phipps-Norton shoot into the side netting.

**HALF-TIME: 1-0**

Worcestershire took up the running at the start of the second half and were rewarded with a deserved equaliser on 50 minutes when centre forward Jamie Molyneux collected the ball on the left, cut into the penalty area and shot low in to the far corner of the net.

On the hour mark Northamptonshire almost regained the lead when Korey Morgan's fierce shot from 20 yards rebounded to safety off the crossbar.

As both sides went searching for a winner, Worcestershire continued to enjoy the greater possession with substitute Chris Smith and Tom Allard creating chances whilst Korey Morgan shot high over the crossbar following a flowing Northamptonshire move.

At the final whistle both teams had to be content with a share of the spoils and will lock horns again on the 5<sup>th</sup> November in the second round of The FA County Youth Cup.

**FULL TIME: 1-1**

Following the match Tom Allard became the second player this season to receive his County Youth Cap having completed 10 appearances, Ben Hayes having received his cap after the previous match versus Huntingdonshire.

**Worcestershire:** Joshua Smith; Ben Hayes, Gareth Williams-Howells ( Luke Wellham 68), Oliver Butler, Eddy Westbury, Christopher Neilson, Tom Allard, Connor Smith, Jamie Molyneux, James Shembri (Chris Smith 65), Harry Osborne.