

Injuries costly in cup loss

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WINSFORD suffered only their second defeat of the season in the Cheshire and Manchester Women's League Knockout Cup Final at Warrington.

The defeat also dashed their hopes of a double.

It was always going to be a tough match – Fletcher Moss had finished the season as runners up to Winsford Ladies in Division One – but things were made tougher as Winsford ended with only nine fit players on the pitch.

After a scrappy opening Winsford made the break through on 12 minutes when player of the match Danielle Lydiate collected the ball 10-yards outside the opposition area.

She quickly moved the ball on to her lethal right foot and hit an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net to give Winsford the advantage.

Fletcher Moss pressed hard and Winsford had to defend well against a succession of corner kicks.

Captain Emma Johnson was once again immense in a very organised defence.

Winsford came close to a second, when a superb cross-field pass caught Fletcher Moss on the break but just evaded Sarah Lee as she was running into the box.

Fletcher Moss equalised early in the second half with a controversial goal, and then Winsford suffered a number of injuries which in the end cost them dearly.

Keeper Kayleigh Hatfield had to be substituted as did left winger Michaela Thompson, and having used all three subs Winsford suffered two further injuries and only finished the match with nine fit players.

Fletcher Moss took the lead on 71 minutes and, as Winsford pressed for the equaliser, they added a killer third five minutes from time.

Winsford Ladies coach Tony Lee said: "The girls can reflect on an outstanding season."

“They won the league and were unbeaten in 22 of their 24 games. Roll on next year.”