

Leeds City Boys V Barnsley - Cup Game

The blizzards and sleeting rain didn't stop the Leeds City Boys from putting on a strong performance in the cup against Barnsley but they made their parents and supporters suffer in the weather in a hard-fought victory after extra time.

The match started with Jarvis Barker, Haroon Bostan, Matty Webb and Toms Woodeson and Nicholson-Watton on the bench, and a covering of wet snow on the pitch. The first attacking moves were made by Leeds, with Regan and Dean linking up well but Barnsley replied with a couple of breaks by their dangerous number 10 who got past the defence. Jake Donahue was quick to respond on both occasions, and Leeds went up the other end with a move led by Regan – Jack White's shot was saved by the excellent Barnsley keeper.

Leeds continued to apply pressure, with Wilson-Gales attacking strongly down the right but it was proving difficult to get past the Barnsley goalkeeper who saved a Dean header then pulled off an even better stop from a fantastic shot by the same player. Ollie Brown's pace was invaluable in stopping the Barnsley breaks from midfield and as the weather took a turn for the worse both teams battled against a sticky pitch as much as each other.

In the last few minutes of the half Brown was at the heart of moves involving White and Wilson-Gales, and Dean was unlucky not to get a penalty when the Barnsley keeper slipped and the defenders panicked and appeared to impede him.

The second third of the match saw Woodeson, Bostan and Webb join the game and the momentum was with the home team right from the start. Webb was full of energy and got involved immediately, passing to Wilson-Gales, whose cross into the box was cleared by Barnsley, and Woodeson, Brown and Regan also linked up well down the right. A Barnsley break was stopped by a strong tackle from Batty, and the home team soon turned pressure in to goals when a Webb shot fell to Bostan who scored from close range. 1-0 and well-deserved.

Bostan was involved in a lot of the action, with a header going just wide and a shot hitting the crossbar after good work from Webb, Wilson-Gales and Regan, and when Barnsley broke Brown, Pearson and Woodeson were quick to close down the opportunity. Leeds continued to test the Barnsley defence, with Webb being especially difficult to handle – his powerful shot resulted in a wonderful save by the keeper, another went just wide and Wilson-Gales also had a chance caught at the near post. Leeds finally got their reward when a great move down the left by Regan eventually resulted in Bostan scoring Leeds' second goal.

The final third of the match was something of a shock to the home team and their frozen fans – after a positive start by Leeds, when Barker forced a save from the Barnsley keeper, it was Barnsley who showed much more attacking intent. Tom Nicholson-Watton made his first save of the match, then another shot from a Barnsley free kick went just wide, and after Leeds lost the ball in midfield, the away team finally scored – 2-1 and the nerves were showing! Within a minute, Barnsley made it 2-2 as the Leeds defence were left exposed down the right hand side.

Leeds responded well and had chances to win it before extra time: the Barnsley keeper pulled off another excellent save after a scramble in the area, and prior to that Bostan flashed a header wide and Regan had another chance saved after good work from Webb. The last attack of the 60 minutes fell to Barnsley though and Jack Backhouse did brilliantly to get back and prevent the away team scoring.

As the snow fell heavily, extra time started and the supporters braced themselves for potentially another ten freezing minutes and penalties. A golden goal however would end the match and it was Leeds who seemed determined to score it.

Within the first minute the Barnsley keeper saved from Bostan, who then had a shot just past the post. The home team won the ball back and continued to attack, Batty passing to Bostan, out wide to Dean who passed to the battling Webb who scored the golden winner! An exciting, dramatic end to a cracking game of football that Leeds probably deserved to win by more, but for the brilliance of the Barnsley keeper. Onwards to the next round. Once we've all thawed out.