

Saturday 24/2/23

Leeds Blues 2-1 Rotherham

They say revenge is a dish best served cold and Leeds Blues served up a performance on Saturday at home to Rotherham that had the coaches licking their lips and asking for more.

After being outplayed and outmuscled last week against today's opponents, Leeds were on the front foot from the outset, fired up and matching their opponents all over the pitch.

The defensive trio of Arthur Alton, Ethan Manyika and Billy Rochford kept Rotherham's forwards at bay, restricting their opportunities to half chances until Leeds made the breakthrough, they deserved on 17 minutes. Jamie Moore's well directed header found the back of the net for 1-0 and Leeds had their tails up.

Blues goalkeeper Luca Darling made two outstanding saves to deny Rotherham before Noah Stainforth twice came close to increasing Leeds' lead just after the 20 minute mark.

Rotherham equalised on 27 minutes from a well directed corner and it was game on with the teams going in level at half time.

The second half saw Manyika and William Reynolds pushing up in support of forwards Harry Cullen and Jamie Moore who showed skill and strength in equal measure to keep the pressure on the Rotherham defence.

With Matthew Keeling combative in midfield, Leeds continued to create good chances with Stainforth hitting the crossbar from close range and Cullen going agonisingly close twice in quick succession.

The introduction of Ben Hayes and Tom Casey solidified the Leeds defence before Leeds were awarded a penalty on 44 minutes. Cullen drove at the Rotherham backline before being clumsily upended to give Leeds the chance to take the lead. With ice in his veins, it's a chance Cullen took himself, giving the keeper no chance for 2-1.

The final 10 minutes saw Rotherham tempers fray as Leeds continued to frustrate their opponents. As they pushed hard for an equaliser, a succession of corners were expertly tipped over by keeper Darling who then saved superbly, palming a Rotherham shot around the post to keep the score at 2-1.

With neither team able to make any further impression on the scoreline, the game ended 2-1, inflicting only the second defeat of the season on Rotherham and giving the Blues their third win in four games.