

Barnsley 2 v 4 Leeds

[U 11 Yorkshire Cup]

THINGS LOOK ROSEY FOR LEEDS

Leeds travelled to Barnsley for a ¼ final Yorkshire Cup fixture on a crisp December day and came away victorious with a Declan Rose double giving the away team the edge. Leeds opened the brighter of the two sides but Barnsley's dogged physical approach seem to unsettle the Leeds midfield. The two Leeds wide players Liam Fletcher and Jake Wright made foraging runs and with Jacob Little ploughing a lone furrow in the centre Leeds began to take control. A defensive error presented Wright with a chance and his coolly taken finish gave Leeds the lead. The tight central trio of Henry Dolby, Tristan Brennan and Oliver Casey just couldn't get a foothold in the game and were not helped by the hard frosty midfield area of the pitch. Roshan Singh-Morgan and Joe Straker were rarely stretched but although the lively Barnsley forwards huffed and puffed goalkeeper Harrison Jones came under little pressure and was only called into occasional action. Declan Rose at right back was having a very strong game and found time to support his colleagues but there was little goalmouth action to report.

The second half was a different affair with Barnsley scoring two quick goals which were both preventable and Jones in goal should have done better with the first, a long shot from distance which found a way through. The second came from a defensive mix up allowing the Barnsley striker to fire into an empty net. This setback startled Leeds who suddenly began to match the physical Barnsley players who understandably were in defiant mood. Wave after wave of attacks bore down on the Barnsley goal but wasteful attempts by Casey, Wright, Little and Brennan didn't help the Leeds cause and inspired goalkeeping by the Barnsley player kept Leeds at bay. It looked as the raft of free kicks and corners were not going to be enough when as the final minute approached Rose on the left flank came inside and drilled home via a Barnsley leg to find the net. Leeds celebrated as Barnsley heads drooped and the referee blew for time. The ensuing extra time was a fifteen minute onslaught on the Barnsley goal but their defence held firm with last ditch defending and bar and post coming to the rescue too. Sporadic forays by the excellent Barnsley No9 were snuffed out by Robert White, Luke Lyons and Mason Sheridan Hawley and with Joe Straker in imperious form at full back surely Barnsley couldn't hang on? The tiring Singh-Morgan who had had an outstanding game came off to be replaced by the feisty Dolby who formed a tough pairing with the brave bruised and battered Brennan in the centre. A delightful through ball from Brennan found Casey running into space and he calmly slid the ball into the net under the advancing keeper to send the spectators wild. Rose who'd been Leeds main player on the day then sealed the win with a cool angled strike to give the victory to Leeds but what a fight and fright Barnsley gave Leeds who march into the semi final.