

Leeds v Barnsley (friendly) – 21st September

A mild Saturday morning saw Leeds take on Barnsley in a thrilling 4-4 friendly at St Theresa's.

Leeds soon took the lead with a lovely goal from Ellis Wilson Gales, who scored after strong attacking play down the right. It didn't last long though and Louis Hope scored from distance to equalise for Barnsley.

As the first third of the match continued Leeds put more pressure on Barnsley with Jack Backhouse, Alex Fitzsimmons and Will Holmes working well together on the right hand side. When the away team did attack Lewis Staniforth and Matthew Johnson were strong in central defence and Staniforth played a lovely ball through that was saved by the Barnsley keeper.

Leeds kept up the pressure and Jaden Richards' ball over the defence was collected confidently by the Barnsley keeper who was unaware he was outside his area. The subsequent free kick from Tom Woodeson was cleared by Barnsley, and in the last few minutes a big goal kick from Tom Nicholson-Watton was crossed by Wilson Gales to Richards whose shot went just wide, which meant the score stayed at 1-1.

In the second 20 minutes of the match Liam Dean, Ethan Kachosa and Ben Kenneally replaced Fitzsimmons, Holmes and Backhouse, but it was Barnsley who started more positively, with some quick passes and balls over the defence that unsettled Leeds. They took the lead after a big kick out of defence was missed by Leeds and the Barnsley number 14 scored to make it 2-1. Dean then had a strong shot well saved by the Barnsley keeper and Nicholson-Watton made an excellent save to keep Leeds in the game.

Leeds pushed forward and Dean's strong run from the centre of midfield led to a corner, taken by Dean and converted by Wilson Gales – 2-2. With Staniforth running strongly down the left and the midfield of Woodeson, Kachosa and Richards battling hard, Leeds looked more confident but this section of the game finished with another quick-breaking attack from Barnsley that Nicholson-Watton did well to claim.

The final third of the match had Backhouse, Fitzsimmons and Holmes return to the game, replacing Tom Woodeson, Wilson Gales and Richards. Kachosa fought well for Leeds but Barnsley attacked quickly with their number 14 putting the defence under pressure. A cross from the right was converted by the Barnsley number 9 despite T Nicholson-Watton's valiant effort – 3-2.

Backhouse's attacking moves down the right hand side soon brought Leeds back level again, as he combined well with Holmes who crossed for Dean to score the equaliser. Unfortunately Leeds didn't remain level for long, failing to clear a corner which allowed Barnsley to go 4-3 up.

In the last few minutes of the match Leeds attacked repeatedly from the defensive platform provided by Kenneally and Johnson, with some lovely passes out from defence by Staniforth. Wilson Gales replaced Kachosa and made an attacking run down the left, crossing beautifully for Backhouse who couldn't quite reach to score.

Backhouse had a hand in the best move of the match though, sharing lovely one-touch passing with Holmes which resulted in the final goal of the match, scored by Dean.

Leeds finished the match the stronger of the two teams and will probably feel that they should have beaten Barnsley on the balance of play.