

Leeds hit by Sucker Punch at Barnsley

Barnsley U12's 3-2 Leeds U12's

LCB under 12's began their season away at Barnsley and after a series of impressive friendly results in recent weeks, including a 3-0 victory over their opponents, there was plenty of optimism in the camp.

Leeds started slowly and were second in the tackle with Cameron Moyles, Reece Crampton and Jack Crosskey defending resolutely to keep the game scoreless at the end of the first period.

Leeds started brightly in the second period but were caught on the break when the Barnsley striker got away from Charlie Watson and despite a brave effort to block the shot beat Leo Elsdon in the Leeds goal.

Leeds rallied with Ollie Clarke and Gavin Maleka taking control of midfield and it wasn't long before they were level. Ben Ratcliffe dropped deep to pick up the ball and run at the Barnsley defence and was unceremoniously bundled to the ground by two Barnsley defenders. Ratcliffe brushed himself down before curling a delightful free kick into the top corner from fully 20 yards.

At 1-1 Leeds were in the ascendancy, Barney Hirst was causing problems down the left flank with Charlie Watson overlapping, and the Barnsley keeper was forced into a couple of saves first from Keanu Momtaz and then Rauri Cunningham.

More poor defending down Leeds's left let Barnsley take the lead again, when a cross was expertly finished first time from their number eight arriving late in the box.

Leeds pushed again and went close with another Ratcliffe free kick which smashed against the underside of the crossbar and bounced to safety, but the pressure was building and the equaliser came following good work from Ralph Nkomba down the Leeds right who played in Ratcliffe on the edge of the box, a quick turn and square pass saw Momtaz fire past the Barnsley keeper from 12 yards, 2-2.

Leeds pressed in the final 10 minutes desperately seeking a winning goal but Barnsley were always dangerous on the counter attack and the warning signs were there when Clark miraculously cleared one attempt off his own goal line.

With Leeds committing more players forward and the 60 minutes up, in the dying seconds of injury time a long kick from the Barnsley keeper wasn't dealt with and Barnsley's number 8 looped a first time shot from 20 yards that sailed over Elsdon's head, and heartbreakingly for Leeds just under the crossbar.