

LEEDS B 2 DERBY 4 (AET) WEST YORKSHIRE CUP

On a dreary damp December day Leeds B showed some metal and played periods of good football before eventually going down 4-2 in extra time to a very good Derby team. From the outset Derby pushed forward and had a few early chances that were thwarted by Rohan who had a fabulous game and made some magic saves throughout the match. Leeds however were resilient and it was Luca who had the first clear chance of the game, albeit against the run of play, only to see his shots go inches wide. With this break came more belief and moments later Leeds went a goal up with a well taken penalty by Oliver Baugh, having been brought down in the corner of the box following a break down the right hand side. First 20 mins 1-0

The second period saw Derby on the attack again with everything being played to their small and fast forward who proved a handful for the Leeds defenders throughout the entire match despite all efforts to man mark him. It was he who got their equaliser 5 minutes into the 2nd half off a well taken corner. Leeds, however, were not out of the game and had 2 good chances to reclaim the lead. One a volley for Jack Clark and the 2nd a long curling effort from Charlie Ball which went narrowly wide. Derby remained a threat and were exerting their authority again before Luca regained the lead for Leeds again following a fast break down the right. Goal assist Jack Clark. With 5 mins to go, could Leeds hold onto their lead? Unfortunately not as their forward, who was the bane of the Leeds defence throughout the game, broke through a sloppy defence, to equalise just before the whistle blew. After 40 mins 2-2

Final period and the game resumed the same pattern of play as Derby pushed on forward for the win and Leeds relied on Rohan's good keeping skills to keep the scores level. That said whilst Derby undoubtedly had some strong and talented players, confidence in the Leeds team grew and they had periods in which when they came forward showed good ability and flair. After 60 mins 2-2

The game went to 20min of extra time. The fans were at the edge of their seats, the tension in the stands was palpable. Could Leeds get the win?. Leeds came out fighting and during this final period of the game there was nothing between the two teams as the game ebbed and flowed. Leeds were resilient and strong. Derby appeared to be weakening. The game could have gone either way. Alas it was Derby who took the lead for the first time in the game and following a near miss by Luca went on to break and score a 4th.

Leeds were out of the cup but showed grit and determination that is sometimes missing and if they continue to play like this will go to be a winning side in 2016

Merry Christmas