

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 0-0

COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE Game 11

Saturday October 3, 3pm Elland Road **Attendance** 31,838 (1,448 Charlton)

Referee Scott Mathieson (Cheshire) **Booked** Bromby (Leeds); Sodje (Charlton)



Bradley Johnson

Gone with the wind? This game was dominated by a swirling gale, and never lived up to its top-of-the-table billing – but Leeds lost nothing here. The unbeaten record and advantage in the table remained intact. A clean sheet was a major bonus, too, after Charlton's lively Jonjo Shelvey glanced a header wide on 25 minutes – following a brilliant run and cross from Frazer Richardson (remember him?) – and

Shelvey again, then Deon Burton, forced a double save from Casper Ankergrén on 75. That, though, was the first save Casper had needed to make...

Leeds had their chances, too? Oh yes. Although Sam Sodje for the visitors, predictably, kept them to a minimum. Just inside 10 minutes, though, we all thought Jermaine Beckford had scored after shooting from an angle after a brilliant long diagonal pass from Neil Kilkenney picked him out. Bradley Johnson came closest 17 minutes later when Rob Elliot palmed the ball out for a corner after Johnson's brilliant dribble, turn, and shot from distance. Late in the second half, Grella deserved better after a great run into the box almost set-up Beckford – and Showunmi came close with a chip from distance.

Best Leeds players Johnson and Paddy Kisnorbo. Both showed supreme confidence and were exciting and reliable, respectively.

The bad news? Luciano Becchio twisting his ankle, standing on the ball while stretching for a pass on 36 minutes, and having to be helped off the pitch. Didn't look good...

In a nutshell Sometimes a point is enough.

Neil Jeffries



Becchio blow

MAGIC NUMBER

91

Teams who HAVE been beaten in a league match this season.

HEAD TO HEAD

Leeds	Charlton
13 Attempts on goal	12
5 Attempts on target	6

Charlton (4-5-1) Elliott; Richardson, Dailly, Sodje, Youga; Sam (Wagstaff h-t), Bailey, Spring, Racon (Basey 89), Shelvey (McLeod 76); Burton



DARLINGTON 2-1

JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY Second Round

Tuesday October 6, 7.45pm Elland Road **Attendance** 8,429 (169 Darlo)

Goals Robinson (22), Kandol (28), Convery (45+1)

Referee Anthony Taylor (Cheshire)

Booked none **Sent off** Liversedge (90+4)

What? We end up hanging on against the 92nd placed club in the professional game? Correct – a distant prospect after 30 minutes when a procession of very presentable chances had suggested a cricket score.

So what changed? Well, whisper it, but in-from-the-cold striker Tresor Kandol was sick and so substituted at half-time. His absence appeared the main reason why we relinquished our dominance and let a spirited Darlo back in the game. Kandol alone had seven chances before the interval, but in the second half nothing stuck up front, midfield seemed disinterested and the ball just kept



Kandol goal

coming back at the defence.

The goals?

Robbo beat the keeper at the near post from a direct free-kick, then three minutes later Kilkenney

set Tres clean through, and he finished smartly into the top corner. Just before half-time a combination of loose marking and Casper flapping offered Darlington a lifeline from close range.

Didn't both teams end with 10 men? Yeah, Somma's inglorious 13-minute debut was curtailed by an injury. Having used three subs, we were left to face a pretty dicey last few minutes. Then, in injury time, keeper Liversedge upended the on-rushing Enoch. By definition I suppose it was a "goalscoring opportunity", but in the circumstances it seemed a harsh and unnecessary dismissal.

Best Leeds player? Kandol for 45 minutes, probably Naylor for 90, but in truth nobody shone and many fringe players went missing.

In a nutshell More questions than answers for Larry.

Jon Howe

Darlington (4-4-2) Liversedge; Arison, Foster, Plummer (Convery 31), Miller; G Smith, Devitt (Main 88), Groves (Bennett 54), J Smith; Barnes, Gall

ODDBALL NUMBER

71

Matches since Kandol's previous start – the 2008 Play-Off final.

HEAD TO HEAD

Leeds	Darlington
21 Attempts on goal	10
11 Attempts on target	6 (+1) (hit woodwork)

