

BRENTFORD 1-1



Jermaine Beckford equalises.

COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE Game 34

Saturday March 6, 3pm Elland Road

Attendance 25,445 (2,889 Brentford)

Goal Strevens (60), Beckford (73)

Referee Oliver Langford (West Midlands)

Booked Snodgrass (Leeds); none (Brentford)

Ouch, that scoreline hurts...

To see it unfold was painful. Leeds were so much stronger – but unable to get the goals that mattered. The one Beckford did get was a tap-in that anyone in the ground would have been hard-pushed to miss. We expected it to open the floodgates but it simply piled on more agony by failing to do so – although Lubo did hit the post with a header.

What happened? In either penalty area – almost nothing. Most of our efforts were off-target or from distance. Or both. To be fair, we had a decent 10-minute spells at the start and end of the first half. But after the interval, the more pressure we put the visitors under, the more they seemed to be able to frustrate us.

Best Leeds player? Gary McSheffrey had a fine game delivering at least half-a-dozen quality crosses – but no one could convert any of them. In the end, he got an assist with the simplest of them all – a sidefoot to the unmarked Beckford for the equaliser.

We could hardly have expected to need an equaliser against Brentford? Exactly! Their goal came from a corner we failed to clear and – aside from Sam Wood's one-on-one that Casper brilliantly dealt with on the half-hour – it was their only effort on target.

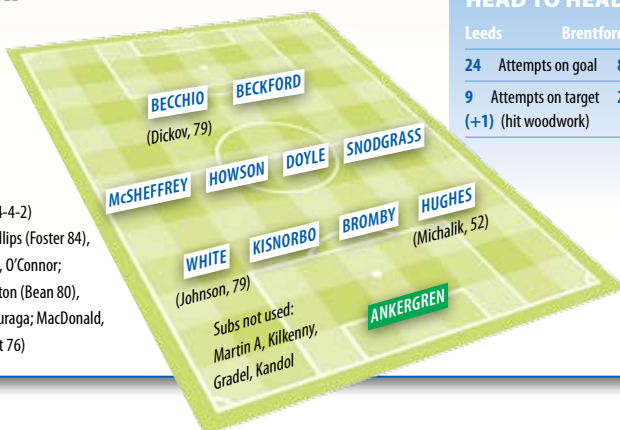
How were the Leeds fans? Cringing in frustration. Tormented by the visiting fans. Booing at the final whistle.

In a nutshell Can somebody please give us a lucky break?

Neil Jeffries

Brentford (4-4-2)

Szczesny; Phillips (Foster 84), Smith, Legge, O'Connor; Dickson, Weston (Bean 80), Wood, Diagouraga; MacDonald, Strevens (Cort 76)



HEAD TO HEAD

Leeds	Brentford
24 Attempts on goal	8
9 Attempts on target	2
(+1) (hit woodwork)	

TRAGIC NUMBER

2

Points from six against Brentford this season.

TRANMERE ROVERS 4-1

COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE Game 35

Tuesday March 9, 7.45pm Prenton Park **Attendance** 8,346 (2,139 Leeds)

Goals Snodgrass (9), Beckford pen (16), Welsh (19), Becchio (35), Beckford (65)

Referee Rob Shoebridge (Derbyshire)

Booked none (Tranmere); Becchio (Leeds)

Finally, someone has read the script! Having fruitlessly negotiated several “must win” games recently, the emphasis on “must” carried more prominence than ever prior to this game, and with handsome swagger, we won it.

So what changed? Not a lot, really. We just received a few long-awaited breaks – an early Snodgrass goal direct from a lofted free-kick; the penalty, won by McSheffrey and dispatched by Beckford – although it looked dicey for about 10 minutes when Tranmere scrambled a goal back. However, that all changed when Beckford created space on the right and found Becchio with a first-time cross, which the Argentinian dispatched diving full length in face-full-of-mud Ian Baird fashion. And there can be no higher praise than that.

We controlled the game, then? More or less, it was open and frantic throughout and was 2-1 before anyone had drawn breath. Tranmere competed, but lacked the extra 10 per cent that our opponents usually find. We dominated midfield, always looked dangerous, and Beckford finished it with a delicate lob from Doyle's punt.

How were the Leeds fans? Up for it and on form, playing every tackle from the Cowshed Stand (I kid you not!) and it felt like we'd earned the result as much as the players.

Comedy moments? Five balls kicked out of the ground by no-nonsense Leeds defending.

Best Leeds player? Harsh to single anyone out. Howson was massively improved, but Beckford's all-round display was outstanding.

In a nutshell Must win, should win, *did* win!

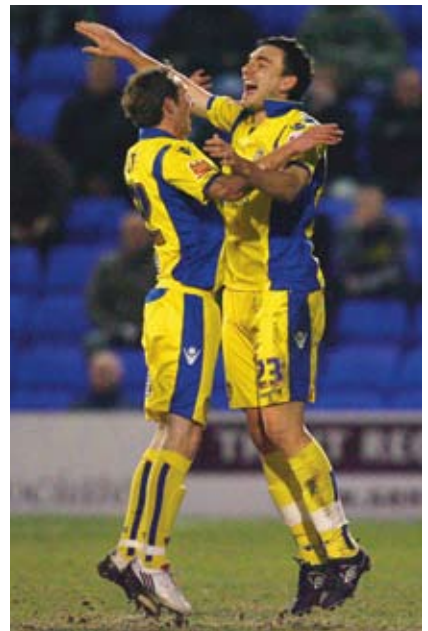
Jon Howe



The opening goal from Robert Snodgrass.



Jermaine Beckford netted in each half.



Luciano Becchio's diving header mate it 3-1!



MAGIC NUMBER

3

Points – first away win of 2010!

Tranmere (4-4-2) Daniels; Goodison, Broomes, Bakayogo, O'Neill (Logan 72); Edds (Mahon 76), McClaren, Welsh, Thomas-Moore; Curan, Sordell (Savage h-t)

HEAD TO HEAD

Tranmere	Leeds
7 Attempts on goal	8
5 Attempts on target	5



Subs not used:
Martin A, Bromby,
Kilkenny, Johnson