

# Match Reports

## STOCKPORT COUNTY 2-0

**COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE Game 6** Saturday September 5, 3pm Elland Road **Attendance** 22,870 (779 Stockport) **Goals** Grella (7), Michalik (36)  
**Referee** Danny McDermid (London) **Booked** Doyle (Leeds); Rose, Mullins, Fon Williams (Stockport)

**A regulation win?** And record-breaking! The result was rarely in doubt, but this was a drab affair and too many players were well below par.

**Maybe a celebratory Stella for Grella?** Probably a Bud Light, but I take your point. He took his goal well and clearly everyone was delighted for him. He broke into the box, took the ball off Johnson's toes and curled a beauty into the bottom corner.

**A bit of controversy after that, wasn't there?** Yeah, debutant Bromby challenged the keeper from Snoddy's free-kick and Lubo tucked away the loose ball. Referees usually take a dim view of challenges on keepers, so I didn't expect the goal to stand, and presumably this was why Stockport manager Gary Ablett was sent off at half-time. To be honest our old friend McDermid (the man who'd red-carded Kandol



and Beckford at Gillingham in 2007) made bizarre decisions throughout. After a booking and a warning, Grayson took Doyle off before he was sent off. The second-half penalty seemed harsh on the Gills – but I doubt that was why Snodgrass fluffed it.

**Comedy moments?** Take your pick. Lubo tussling with Bignall and literally having the shirt pulled off his back – but the ref giving a corner. Enoch's instinctive 12-yard curler that headed for Row Z of the North East Corner – oops! Or the ref consulting his linesman and then running the width of the pitch to move a steward who clashed with Stockport's horrific luminous away kit.

**Best Leeds player?** Howson controlled midfield and possibly put in his best all-round performance of the season.

**In a Record Breakers nutshell** "Dedication's what you need!"

Jon Howe



**Stockport** (4-4-2) Fon Williams; Mullins, Havern, Bridcutt, Rose; Vincent, Tansey, Baker, Pilkington (Johnson 59); Poole (Griffin 77), Bignall (Thompson 84)

MAGIC NUMBER

8

Wins for the 2009/10 Record Breakers!

### HEAD TO HEAD

Leeds	Stockport
12 Attempts on goal	9
8 Attempts on target	3



Above: Grella opens his Leeds account.

Left: ...and Lubo adds to his!

## SOUTHEND UNITED 0-0

**COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE Game 7** Friday September 11, 7.45pm Roots Hall **Attendance** 10,123 (2,151 Leeds) **Referee** Paul Taylor (Hertfordshire) **Booked** McCormack (Southend); Crowe, Hughes (Leeds)

**First "bogey team" of the year – how was it?** A scrappy start, with no team really taking the upper hand, nearly went our way after 20 minutes when, after a superb ball by Howson, Beckford's shot was deflected over the crossbar. Beckford came close a few minutes later and at times Becchio looked like he was trying to tackle his way through the entire opposition.

**So all one-way then?** Not by any means. Southend looked lively on the counter-attack and Higgs was called upon several times to make important



saves. On the stroke of half-time Grant missed an open goal after some poor Leeds defending. The second half produced more of the same until the defining moment of the match when on 65 minutes Bromby gave away a penalty after a rash challenge.

**Oh no!** With Higgs in form we fancied a save – and he duly obliged. This did seem to spur Leeds on and for the last 25 minutes there was an undeniable change in the tempo of the match with Beckford again coming close a quarter of an hour before the end and nearly

scoring from close range with only a couple of minutes to spare. Grella should have had a penalty awarded in the last minute but we had to defend smartly at the last minute to escape with a point.

**In a nutshell** A tough place to come and claim a well-deserved point.

Chris Tams



**Southend** (4-4-2) Mildenhall; Francis, M'Voto, Barrett, Herd; Grant (Scannell 80), Christophe, McCormack, Moussa; Laurent (Freedman 80), Barnard

MAGIC NUMBER

1

First time we've ever been top of League One!

### HEAD TO HEAD

Southend	Leeds
6 Attempts on goal	17
2 Attempts on target	6



Above: penalty save hero Higgs  
 Left: Luciano Becchio.