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Match Match : Leeds 0 Chelsea 0

Reporter: Lennon Kelly

Since Thomas Tuchel's arrival, Chelsea have been on fire; they haven't lost since Thomas Tuchel had been appointed. In recent weeks, Leeds have had the total opposite form to Chelsea having lost 4 out of their last 5. Therefore this will be an extremely difficult game for Leeds and Chelsea await who'll have to put up with the relentless intensity of Leeds. Chelsea have shown they can outrun Leeds as last time out the Chelsea players were able to top the running stats over Leeds to become one of the only teams to do that. As it is the case with a new manager, Chelsea might play a different style to what they played at Stamford Bridge. There is no denying Chelsea have the stronger side squared but will Leeds upset the odds and get a surprise win to possibly knock Chelsea out of the Champions League places?

The 2 teams started the game pressing with intensity but neither team stood out as being the superior team. Chelsea had an overload as they were two CAMS midfielders. Leeds



in midfield playing with attacking and Jack

Harrison in particular were pressing high on the Chelsea defence making it hard for Chelsea's back 3 to play it out with ease. From very early on in the game, Ziyech and Christian Pulisic were getting in behind Alioski, leading to a few small chances for Chelsea. Just a few moments after this, Leeds were on the break Chelsea half breaking in the Chelsea box. Tyler Roberts was through on goal with loads of time to get his shot off, he did get his shot off, a powerful shot that rippled the back of the net. The linesman ruled it offside before VAR confirmed the disallowance. On the counter-attack, both teams were breaking quickly and efficiently creating a lot of their chances (many half-chances) from the counter-attack. Slowly, the game changed from a scrappy and untidy game to a tidy but high-quality game. Chelsea started to put a couple of crisp, passing moves together when on the attack to rattle the Leeds defenders. Gradually, Chelsea became on top having a few changes to compliment their spell. On the 9th minute, Chelsea were centimetres away from taking the lead when Ziyech, off Llorente's boot. During this, Leeds did put a few promising

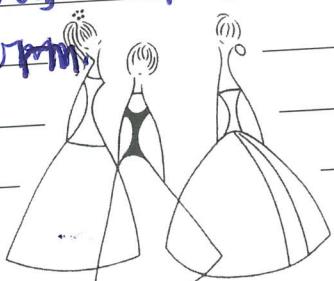


together counter-attacks ↑ to fight back against Chelsea's dominance. Chelsea stepped onto Leeds during their period of sustained pressure and possession, and Leeds couldn't gain the ball back. Only 5 minutes after Ziyech's effort, R. Doherty had an effort of his own which looped over Edouard Mendy only to hit the top of the bar like Ziyech's effort. Each team were having 5-10 minute spells where they were on top. Chelsea controlled the game from minute 10-20 but Leeds controlled it after that. To stop Leeds from creating Raphinha was being doubled up on by the Chelsea but this left Jack Harrison space to ^{rough into} exploit on the left wing. Unfortunately for Leeds Patrick Bamford was forced off due to an injury allowing Rodrigo to make his first appearance since the Leicester game a few weeks ago. After Leeds' spell ran out, Chelsea began to get more involved in play and take advantages from the spaces left by the on-rushing Leeds players. Even since Bamford left the field, Leeds began to loosen up in the midfield allowing more space for players like Jorginho and Mount to spray the ball about. Due to the space left by catching Leeds off guard with a few quick ^{of the first half} breakaway moves Kai Havertz

had a breakaway chance but his shot was straight at Illay Meslier. The teams were going into half time holding onto a 0-0 draw. Will either team be able to break the deadlock in the second half?

Chelsea started the second half with the same intensity as the first. Only a few minutes into the second half, Kai Havertz had another decent chance but like the others Illay Meslier saved this one as well. Unlike the first half the start of the first half, this half started end-to-end with both teams playing equally ~~as well~~ well. Robert had another chance for Leeds but following the recent pattern he didn't score. Slowly but surely, Chelsea began to grow on top and pip Leeds back. They didn't create any clear-cut opportunities but they did create a few half-chances. Leeds were still breaking forward but not with the numbers they usually do. Players like ^{Kai} Phillips and ^{Stuart} Dallas were sitting deeper to deal with the Chelsea's attacking prowess. Lots of chances were starting to be created by both teams one of many coming for Leeds. On the 54th minute, ^{the second} A Rodriguez ^{Header} landed at [↑] Raphael who's attempt ^{the} hit ^{the} side netting but behind the game was really become as exciting goal. This was starting to

as the hype around it promised. Similar to the pattern of the first half, Chelsea were exploiting the space behind Gianni Alioski to create a lot of their chances. In the midfield, Chelsea started to run riot round Leeds with Mason Mount playing a few passes ^{penetrating} past the Leeds backline. To hopefully grab the first goal in the match, Helder Costa replaced Jack Harrison. Around the 70th minute, Leeds had three consecutive corners having a few chances come from them as well. The best of which was a header which went straight at Nordin's head. Grade Leeds began to get more of a foothold again. With 15 minutes to go at Chelsea were forced to drop deeper. With 10 minutes to go Hudson Odoi was brought on ~~for~~ to try get Alioski sent off who was on already on a booking. In the last 10 minutes, Leeds and Chelsea began to get sloppy and be faulty for a lot of loose touches and passes. Looking back on the game, a draw was a fair result but Chelsea won't be happy with the result as their champions league spot is now in danger. Leeds however will be and will hope this result spurs them onto better form.



Stats:

Possession: Leeds 38% Chelsea 62%

Shots: Leeds 7 > Chelsea 15

Shots on target: Leeds 4 Chelsea 8

Corners: Leeds 8 Chelsea 5

Fouls conceded: Leeds 15 Chelsea 6

Yellow cards: Leeds 3 Chelsea 0

