



Friday 11th September 2009 Southend United 0-0 Leeds United

Starting XI: **Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Jean-Francois Christophe, Anthony Grant, Francis Laurent and Lee Barnard.**

Southend United unbeaten home form continued as they held Leeds United at Roots Hall. With a crowd of over 10,000 in attendance the atmosphere was electric and the result meant that Leeds United still have not got a victory at Roots Hall in their history.

Leeds arrived at Roots Hall with 6 wins out of 6 this season in the league and it looked to be a very tough night in store for the Shrimpers. Leeds started stronger and nearly took the lead when Johnny Herd completely missed a ball into the box and winger Robert Snodgrass diverted the ball over the bar.

However, Southend United were not being out-played in any department of the match and were overall throughout the match were the team most likely to get a goal.

Franck Moussa dragged a shot wide of the target and the impressive Francis Laurent skilfully got passed the Leeds left-back Hughes to win a corner which Adam Barrett narrowly headed over the bar. The impressive Laurent was at it again, this time firing a fierce shot at the Leeds goal but former Cheltenham 'keeper Shane Higgs did enough to palm away the shot.

The clearest chance of the half fell to the Blues when Moussa's cross was deflected into the path of the on-running Anthony Grant but he somehow got the ball over the bar from 5 yards out with an open goal gaping.

The second half continued in the same manner with Moussa having a shot blocked by Kisnorbo, who scored against the Blues for Leicester in the Championship season, and then Lee Barnard got pushed in the box and the referee pointed to the penalty spot.

Up-stepped Barnard looking to score his 8th of the season and take him to the top of the scoring charts but his powerful free-kick was brilliantly saved by Higgs, maybe the penalty was a decent height for Higgs but he still did well to push the ball away from danger.

Down the other end captain Adam Barrett who was superb on the field of play, made a world class last-ditch challenge to block Beckford after M'Voto had slipped. As the game was coming to a close Freedman and Scannell came on and Freedman looked lively but he couldn't muster up a chance for the Blues, but it was Leeds who nearly snatched all three points from the game.

Jermaine Beckford was only 6 yards out when the ball fell to him, he turned and smashed a close range shot which Mildenhall kept out with a stunning reaction save.

Mike Grella had a header go just wide but a draw was maybe a fair result, even though Blues could have pinched all three if Barney converted the penalty, however Southend United are the first team to take any points off Leeds this season and all the signs are there for Tilly and Brush that Southend can compete at the top end of the table this season.