



WOMEN'S WATER POLO:

Liverpool 10-1 Leeds

Women's water polo team come out on top in Christie battle

Having beaten Manchester 8-4 earlier in the day, Liverpool's women's water polo team capped off a victorious day with a 10-1 hammering of Leeds in the final water polo game of the Christie Championships 2018.

Liverpool, in their white caps, began the match slightly under the cosh, as Leeds, wearing their traditional green colours, put them under pressure.

Two minutes into the first half – a tenth of the match overall – and only good play from the Liverpool goalkeeper kept the score goalless.

On three minutes, a Leeds effort from a central position went marginally wide of the target, but from then on Liverpool had a firm grip on the match.

A goal from close range put Liverpool ahead, slightly against the overall run of play, after four minutes, and a minute later it was 2-0. The Liverpool attacker beat the onrushing Leeds goalkeeper to the ball and had the simple task of directing the ball over her and into an otherwise unguarded goal.

It was almost 3-0 when the Leeds goalkeeper made an excellent stop with seven minutes played, but then the three-goal margin did materialise a minute later.

A foul by a Leeds attacker in the final third led to a free-throw, which was taken quickly, catching Leeds upfield and off guard. The shot that arrived was central but beat the goalkeeper for power.

Leeds stood off a Liverpool player for too long on nine minutes, and she was allowed to dribble forward and produce a good shot under limited pressure. The shot found the back of the net, and after a tricky start to the game, the score was now 4-0 to the hosts.

A well-worked goal just before the half-time whistle made it 5-0 as a Liverpool attacker created some space out wide and was found, before she finished off the move tidily.

During the two minute half-time interval, the message for Liverpool's players would be to continue doing what they had done for the final eight minutes of the first half, and that is exactly what they did.

Liverpool hit the post after 11 minutes before Leeds had a rare attempt that sailed well over the top of the net.

It should have been 6-0 when Liverpool went one-versus-one with the goalkeeper, but the Leeds stopper made a good save.

The same could be said immediately afterwards, but with roles reversed, this time with Leeds going through and being unable to score.

Liverpool were then given another chance to extend their lead, and this time made no mistake. Leeds had been let off once but Liverpool were not to be denied this time.

Leeds did get a goal back from close range after working the ball around well, but at 6-1 it was nothing more than a consolation.

Play was disrupted when a Liverpool player went off injured, before three fouls in quick

succession led to the Leeds goalkeeper making a good save.

Two more goals inside the eighth minute of the second half made the scoreline 8-1 to Liverpool, but the scoring was not to end there.

Another close range effort made it 9-1, and just before full-time a purposeful dribble forward from the back resulted in another successful attempt finding the back of the Leeds net.

Seconds after the tenth goal had gone in the game came to an end. Having beaten both Manchester and Leeds, Liverpool's women's water polo team came out on top as champions of the water polo section of the Christie Championships.

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