

## Match Report: Leeds Knights 7-3 Milton Keynes Lightning

*Sunday 15th September 2024, Face-off: 17:15*

Leeds Knights delivered a dominant performance against last season's title contenders Milton Keynes Lightning, claiming a decisive 7-3 victory at home. From the opening face-off, the Knights were in control, overpowering MK Lightning both offensively and defensively, showing their intent early on in the Planet Ice NIHL National season.

The Knights opened the scoring at 04:41 in the first period when #33 Finley Bradon found the net, assisted by #19 Innes Gallacher and #41 Oli Endicott. Leeds maintained pressure throughout the period, and just before the break, captain #11 Matthew Haywood doubled the lead at 16:18. MK Lightning responded before the end of the period, with #59 Ross Venus pulling one back at 18:23, making it 2-1 to Leeds Knights heading into the first intermission.

The second period saw Leeds Knights tighten their grip on the game. Just after the restart, at 21:01, #73 Matthew Bissonnette extended The Knights' lead with an assist from #8 Bowdyn Neely and #18 Krisjanis Fugalis. A series of penalties from both teams disrupted the flow, but the Knights capitalised on the power play at 30:30, with #37 Matt Barron scoring his first of the night. A quick fifth goal followed at 34:53, this time from #19 Innes Gallacher, assisted by Bradon and Endicott, putting Leeds in a commanding position.

Despite a late second-period goal from MK Lightning's #28 Tim Wallace at 39:40, The Knights ended the period with a 5-2 lead and looked in full control heading into the final 20 minutes.

The Knights' offensive dominance continued in the third period as Matt Barron completed his hat-trick with two quick goals—one at 42:11, assisted by Bradon and Neely, and another at 43:49, assisted by Bissonnette and #95 Mac Howlett. Milton Keynes' #77 Martins Susters scored a consolation goal at 50:57, but it was too little, too late, as the Knights sealed an emphatic 7-3 victory.

Man of the Match honours went to Matt Barron for his stellar performance, netting a hat-trick and driving The Knights attack. Fin Bradon was also instrumental with a goal and two assists, while the Knights' solid defensive display stifled MK Lightning's efforts.

Leeds Knights have made a statement early in the season, showcasing their firepower and depth in what promises to be an exciting campaign.

**Final Score:** Leeds Knights 7-3 Milton Keynes Lightning

**Leeds Knights Scorers:**

1. #33 Finley Bradon (04:41)
2. #11 Matthew Haywood (16:18)
3. #73 Matthew Bissonnette (21:01)
4. #37 Matt Barron (30:30 - PP)
5. #19 Innes Gallacher (34:53)
6. #37 Matt Barron (42:11)
7. #37 Matt Barron (43:49)

**Milton Keynes Lightning Scorers:**

1. #59 Ross Venus (18:23)
2. #28 Tim Wallace (39:40)
3. #77 Martins Susters (50:57)