

FA Women's Premier League

Leeds United Ladies v Aston Villa Ladies

Sunday 2 October 2011, 2pm

**Throstle Nest, Farsley AFC
Matchday Programme £1**



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Formed in 1989, Leeds United Ladies has been one of the country's top women's sides for most of the last decade.

After seven years playing in the Yorkshire & Humberside league, the season 1997/98 saw the first team gain promotion to the AXA FA Northern Premier League. After consolidating and adjusting to National league football for a couple of seasons they then achieved promotion as champions of the Northern Premier League, the same season also saw them play in the semi finals of the Women's FA Cup for the first time. They then gained promotion in 2001/02 to the FA National League where they finished a very credible fourth.

2003/04 saw the team once again in fourth place, and the highest placed team outside London. In 2004/05 the team finished fifth, while 2005/06 saw the team achieve its first appearance in the Women's FA Cup final.

2006/07 was an up and down season with Leeds topping the table over the Christmas period and getting through to the Premier League Cup Final, when they narrowly lost 1-0 in the 90th minute against Arsenal and eventually finished fifth in the league.

Over the summer of 2007 the youth teams amalgamated with the Leeds United Girls Centre of Excellence to form one organisation feeding into the open age team.

The club had several members of the first squad who had progressed through from the youth teams, including England regulars Gemma Bonner and Jess Clarke, Sophie Walton, Olivia Thackray and Mel Sutcliffe.

Rick Passmoor was appointed Manager in July 2007, and brought in new signings including Steph Houghton, Carly Telford, Katie Holtham and Jade Moore, while the partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University brought in players such as Emma Higgins from Northern Ireland.

In 2008, Carla Cantrell and Ellen White arrived, while the summer of 2009 saw the arrival of Nat Staneff, Laura Bassett and Remi Allen.

The blend of home-grown talent with regular England internationals saw the club have its most successful period ever. As well as the Premier League Cup win against Everton in 2010, and a second FA Cup Final appearance in 2008, the club was made Club of the Year in the 2010 Leeds Sports Federation Awards and finished fourth, just three points and a few goals away from Europe. Rick Passmoor deservedly collected the Premier League Manager of the Season award from the FA.

But the successes of 2009-10 came against the backdrop of the end of the partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University, the club having its funding and Super League application withdrawn in January 2010, just two weeks before that Premier League Cup Final win.

In July 2010, the club re-adopted the Leeds United Ladies name when it was taken under the wing of the Leeds United Foundation, but is now independently funded by local businesses and people - such as our Chairman, Steve Russell - with a genuine interest in women's football. Reserves manager Gemma Grainger stepped up to run the first team, but with results going against the club Rick Passmoor came back for the second half of a difficult transitional season.

Despite having a young and inexperienced squad, the club eventually finished fourth in the eight-team league and won the County Cup for the sixth time in the past ten years.

One of the people Rick brought to the bench was former coach Chris Welburn, and in the summer of 2011 he was appointed manager. His work in building up the squad and taking it to greater heights has already begun, with key signings in Sarah Danby, Emma Johnson, Billie Murphy, Amy Turner and Vanessa Leat - and more to follow.

Major Honours

FA Women's Premier League Northern Division

Champions 2000-01

FA Women's Cup

Runners-up 2005-06

Runners-up 2007-08

FA Women's Premier League Cup

Champions 2009-10

Runners-up 2006-07

FA Women's Reserves Premier League Cup

Runners-up 2008-09

West Riding County Cup

Champions 2007-08, 2008-09, 2010-11

CLUB CONTACTS

Chris Welburn, Manager
Steve Russell, Chairman
- contact either via the Secretary

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media@leedsunitedladies.com
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Leeds United Ladies FC
c/o Ringways Motor Group
Whitehall Road, Leeds, LS12 5NL



Firstly may I welcome officials, spectators and players from Aston Villa LFC and of course welcome those who support Leeds United LFC to Throstle Nest today.

Graham Abercrombie's Aston Villa side arrive at Throstle Nest this afternoon and in my opinion share a similar approach to that of Coventry City in terms of how they have gone about life in the FA National Women's Premier League. They have attacked, scored lots of goals, conceded very little and brought a different approach to how they have embarked on this campaign and deserve respect as the jump from the Northern Division to the National Division is not always an easy one.

From our perspective, we play our sixth game of the season today and I am really pleased that we have managed to have a positive and pleasing start to the season, but collectively, we need to keep pushing!

One area of our game that has pleased me is our defence, conceding only 1 goal this

season so far is credit to all the players who have taken on board their defensive roles and responsibilities well but also credit goes to Jules Draycott our goalkeeper who in recent weeks has shown some fantastic form and I know everyone of the players wants to keep this defensive record in tact.

During today's game, the players and myself will ensure our minds will be very focused on achieving 3 points but as we know the moment you don't concentrate for the full 90, you don't reach and push the levels that you have previously set and don't keep looking to learn as a person and also a player on and off the pitch you will come unstuck. The players know from our development sessions that the values mentioned above are key to my philosophy and their challenge is to keep up

to these on a consistent basis and approach every facet of the game with honesty and maturity. I really hope you enjoy the match today and you continue to support Leeds United Ladies through the 'ups and downs' as we go through this campaign.

**Enjoy the game,
Chris**



*Front cover: Emma Lipman
against Coventry.
Photo by Steve Gaunt.*

Player profiles

1. Jules Draycott

Goalkeeper

Born 15 July 1992

Jules stepped into the first team having helped the reserves retain both league and county cup titles in 2008-09. She has represented England at Under-17 level, including at the World Cup in 2008 and is a Centre of Excellence graduate.



2. Emma Coates

Defender

Born 29 April 1991

Emma is another Leeds player who came through from the reserves. Sadly she spent most of the last 12 months recovering from an injury but she's now working her way back into contention.



3. Stacey Emmonds

Defender

Born 28 November 1986

Stacey is one of the many graduates from Leeds United who move away to gain experience elsewhere, and has already made that experience count since rejoining Leeds last summer. Her season was curtailed by injury but she is once again back in contention.



4. Hayley Sharp

Defender

Born: 12 November 1990

Hayley is another 'prodigal daughter', part of the winning reserves side in 2007-08 and who made a big impact last season.



5. Faye Birkby

Defender

Born 30 November 1992

Faye was one of the breakthrough players from the 2009-2010 season's reserves side, when she was voted Reserves Player of the Year.



6. Jess Round

Midfielder

Born 18 February 1994

Jess joined Leeds at the start of last season after a short time at Sunderland. A graduate from Middlesbrough Centre of Excellence, she has been involved with England at Under 15 and Under 17 levels.



7. Emma Lipman

Midfielder

Born 23 February 1989

Emma signed towards the end of 2010 from cross-city rivals Vixens. and has quickly settled in to the heart of the Leeds back four or midfield.



8. Clare Sykes - Captain

Midfielder

Born 14 December 1984

Captain Clare also joined Leeds in the summer of 2010, and brings experience to the central midfield and, when needed, into the back four.



9. Carey Huegett

Forward

Born 23 July 1991

'Kez' joined the Centre of Excellence at the age of 8, eventually joining the successful reserves side when only 15 years old. A stylish and skilful player, Kez was a key member of the reserves league and County Cup-winning teams of 2007-08 and 2008-09.



10. Tanya Rich

Forward

Born 5 December 1984

Last season's top scorer, Tanya came through the ranks at Leeds and was a member of the all-conquering reserves team in 2007-08 before leaving to gain experience elsewhere. She has now revived her partnership with Huegett at the front of the Leeds formation.



11. Leah Galton

Midfielder

Born 24 May 1994

Leah is the youngest member of the squad, but still has a wealth of footballing experience under her belt, having become an England regular while still at Leeds Girl's Centre of Excellence.



12. Bekki Bass

Midfielder

Born 16 May 1994

Bekki was one of three 16 year olds who joined the squad last year, having graduated from North Yorkshire's Centre of Excellence.



14. Sarah Danby

Midfielder

Born 7 April 1991

A tricky left winger who joined Leeds from Manchester City in the summer of 2011. A former Sunderland WFC Player, Sarah will be another good addition to the squad. Sarah studies at Leeds Metropolitan University and has represented England Universities in 2010 and also Great Britain at the World University Games in China in 2011.



15. Vanessa Holmes

Defender

Born 29 September 1984

Vanessa was another of Chris Welburn's first signings in July 2011. She brings with her a wealth of Premier League experience, having played top-flight football for most of her career.



16. Emma Johnson

Midfielder

Born 12 October 1991

Emma was one of Chris Welburn's first signings in July 2011. A fast, versatile and pacy player.



17. Amy Turner

Defender

Born 4 July 1991

Amy joined Leeds in August 2011 from Super League side Doncaster Rovers Belles, before which she had played in the US while a student at Hofstra University. She has been involved with the England U15 and U17 squads and will now be looking to continue her development while now playing at a higher level.



18. Billie Murphy

Defender

27 January 1993

Billie is a summer signing for Leeds, having previously played for and captained Arsenal Ladies Reserves.



19. Millie Bright

Forward

Born 21 August 1993

Millie joins Leeds from Doncaster Rovers Belles as one of two dual signings. a strong, athletic forward who is dual signed with ourselves and FAWSL side Doncaster Belles. A product of the Sheffield United Centre of Excellence, Millie will be looking to make an impact with us over the next couple of months.



20 Jess Holbrook

Midfielder

Born 1 August 1992

Jess started her career at Everton Centre of Excellence where she competed in both the Under-14s and Under-16s age groups. She then went on to make her full debut in the 2008/2009 season against Millwall. She ruptured her ACL while playing for England Under-20s in 2010, and is making a return to fitness after 8 months out.



Snap to it!

Here's your chance to win two tickets to any Leeds United Ladies home league game this season, and get your photos featured on our web site and matchday programme!

Simply send us your favourite photo featuring the team from any of the games in October. That's the home games today against Aston Villa, Sunderland (9th) and Cardiff City (30th), the County Cup tie at Bradford Park Avenue (16th) or the away trip to Watford on the 23rd.

There are two categories:

Action – your best photo of the players in action. This has to be taken during the game itself.

Profile – the shot that best sums up the club, players, staff and fans. This can be taken at any time, so can include warm up, cool down or half time.



Photo: John Sykes

Entries must be emailed to **photocomp@leedsunitedladies.com** by 5pm on **Friday 4 November**, with the winners announced at the home game against Nottingham Forest on Sunday 13 November.

Terms and Conditions

1. This competition is open to anyone attending any of our games during October, except for players and staff of Leeds United Ladies and their immediate families, and employees of Ringways Motor Group and PAB Studios.
2. Professional photographers (by which we mean anyone who makes a living as a photographer) are also ineligible to enter.
3. The prize in each category is two adult tickets to any Leeds United Ladies home league game this season. There is no cash equivalent.
4. Entry is by email only. Photos should be at least 1000 by 1600 pixels, and at least 500k in size, so that they are suitable for including in our programme if you win.
5. Copyright ownership rests with the photographer; however, by entering your photo, you agree to let Leeds United Ladies use the photo free of charge on any publicity material, not limited to our programme and web site, with named credit.
6. The judges' decision is final. Winners will be announced in the matchday programme on Sunday 13 November.



www.leedsunitedladies.com

County Cup news

Leeds United Ladies begin the defence of their West Riding County Cup title with a visit to Bradford Park Avenue on Sunday 16 October.

This means that the trip to Cardiff has been postponed.

As the draw for all rounds of the competition have been made in advance, we know that, should we win, we will have a home tie against either Huddersfield or Leeds Medics and Dentists on Sunday 20 November - thus the home game against Reading will be called off.

Leeds would also be at home in the quarter final stage, with the tie scheduled to be held on Sunday 22 January.



The November and January dates are, of course, weather-dependent.

The semi-finals and final will once again be held at the County Ground, Woodlesford, in March and April 2012.

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Match reports

5 games into the season, 4 weeks since we were here last, 3 games played, 2 wins and just the 1 defeat...

Additional words by **Jamie Gillham**.

Leeds 0-1 Coventry Sunday 4 September

An under par performance saw Leeds lose their 100% start to the season as they slipped to a disappointing 1-0 home defeat to Coventry.

With expectations high following back to back wins the early signs were promising that Leeds might continue their good run of form as with only two minutes played forward Tanya Rich forced a terrific save from Coventry keeper Susan Wood. Following some neat midfield interplay the striker found herself free down the right hand side of the box and after showing great strength to hold off the fullback drilled a low right foot shot towards the bottom left hand corner only to see Wood produce a wonderful right hand parry to deflect the ball only inches past the post.

Unfortunately for Leeds that early chance was as close as they ever came to scoring as a hard working and well drilled Coventry began to dictate the pattern of the game. With only four minutes gone the visitors task received a boost as some lacklustre Leeds defending saw striker Maz Gauntlett provide them with the opening goal.



Photo: Steve Gaunt

Following an in-swinging corner which Leeds failed to clear the forward, with her back to goal, managed to find ample space to neatly bring down the looping ball before quickly swivelling to fire a wonderfully executed right foot volley into the bottom corner from only eight yards out.

As the first half progressed Leeds continued to battle but found it difficult to break down a resolute Coventry defence. Despite having more of the possession the hosts found it difficult to manufacture any real chances and were forced into testing their luck from distance.

Following the break Leeds came out with renewed vigour but once again failed to break

the pattern of the game. With Coventry happy to drop deep and concede possession to the Leeds defenders the hosts dominated most of the ball but through a lack of execution in the final third were unable to fathom any real goal scoring opportunities.

In truth it was Coventry's incisive counterattacks that looked the more threatening and the visitors were unlucky not to add a second to the total in the 75th minute when substitute Hayley Phillipowsky saw her goalbound poke miraculously saved by home keeper Jules Draycott at point blank range.

Following the game, Leeds manager Chris Welburn was understandably disappointed

by the result. "We had a really sluggish first half," he said. "I was disappointed with how we failed to adapt to Coventry's direct style of play. We need to be ready to work hard from the first minute to the last. Today it cost us."

Forest 0-2 Leeds Sunday 11 September

Leeds got their season back on track with a confident and competent 2-0 win against Nottingham Forest Ladies.

Leeds started much the brighter of the two sides, and Hayley Sharp had the ball in the back of the net as early as the fourth minute, only to be ruled offside. In very difficult weather conditions, and with a strong wind behind them, it was Sharp who opened the scoring. Her cross-cum-shot from 25 yards out into the Forest box was caught by the wind and it sailed high and wide of Forest keeper Wallhead's right hand.

Playing against the wind in the second half, the second goal came the same way as the first, but this time direct from a Faye Birkby free kick out on the right again beating Wallhead to her right.

Leeds manager Chris Welburn was understandably delighted with the result, which takes Leeds to the top of the Women's Premier League National Division on goal difference.

"I'm pleased with how team reacted after last week's poor result," he said. "It was a good performance across the board and show of character that made the win and three points even sweeter."

Leeds have no fixture next weekend owing to international call-ups for their opponents, Reading, but will be back in action on Sunday 25 September at Charlton Athletic, before returning home for two weekends in early October against newly-promoted Aston Villa and last season's champions, Sunderland.

Charlton 0-2 Leeds Sunday 25 September

Leeds United Ladies continued their good start to the season with a 2-0 win against newly-promoted Charlton Athletic Women at Thamesmead Town.

Second half goals from Sarah Danby and substitute Emma Lipman gave Leeds the three

points after a blistering opening half hour. Leeds had chances as early as the seventh minute, Charlton keeper Megan Lynch saving sharply from Leeds captain Clare Sykes, before Jess Holbrook spooned over from five yards.

Charlton regrouped in the second half, but were finally undone in the 59th minute, when good passing across the Charlton goal found Danby in space out on the right; hershot taking a slight deflection and finding the bottom-left corner of the net.

Lipman's first goal of the season came seven minutes later, when she slid in to take advantage of a mix up between Lynch and her defenders.

The result leaves Leeds second in the Women's Premier League National Division, a point behind Coventry but with a game in hand.

"After not being involved in a match last weekend it was good to pick up where we left off after the Forest game," said Leeds manager Chris Welburn. "We now look forward to welcoming Aston Villa to Throstle Nest next Sunday, which will be a tough test against an in-form opposition with a creative coach."

Today's opponents

Aston Villa have been competing at the higher levels of women's football for many years. During the past few seasons they have underachieved and seen many players and staff leave the club.

Season 2008 / 2009 saw a new start for the club as it is run as one of the Football in the Community programmes many concerns. With input from both full and part time staff the women's section now has all of the support structures in place to move forward. Last season saw Aston Villa collect its first piece of silverware for a number of season by winning the Birmingham County Cup.

Season 2009/ 2010 With the stability of having a consistent manager, for the first time in a number of years, Aston Villa are looking to push on from last seasons 6th place finish in the Northern Premier



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Last month, England Under 19's manager Mo Marley called up two of Leeds leading young talents for a specialist five day training camp in London writes Jamie Gillham.

Forwards Millie Bright and Leah Galton joined thirty of the country's leading prospects in preparation for the team's end of season tournament in La Manga.

Winger Galton has previous experience at international level but the camp was new signing Bright's first opportunity to stake a claim for honours and while understandably delighted with the initial call up, the Sheffield youngster is keen to take her chance and establish herself as a regular member of the squad.

"It's a bit of a cliché, but I was over the moon to have been invited," she said. "It's every players dream to represent their country and I couldn't wait to show them what I can do. The camp was a real opportunity to learn some new things and hopefully work my way into the squad for the La Manga Tournament."



Photo: Steve Gaunt

If the striker is in any doubts as to what lays ahead she need only turn to teammate Galton for advice. "The thing with England is that you just never know. There are a lot of quality players in the squad and only eighteen of the thirty will make the final cut. To make the squad for the La Manga Tournament is going to take a lot of consistency and hard work."

Both players have shown good early season form in Leeds's impressive start to the season and thoroughly deserve their

opportunities to make the step up to international football. All associated with the club wish both players every success in making the end of season squad and with a squad packed full of exciting young talent this may not be the last time the club has international recognition to celebrate.

Can you help us get every player sponsored this season?

Individuals, groups or local businesses are all eligible to sponsor a player, and the benefits include free tickets to every home league and cup game during the season, as well as promotion in the club's matchday programme and the club's web site.

Contact Gill Handley, Secretary, if you would like to sponsor one of our players.

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Clare Sykes	Paul & Diane Cusworth	Scotton Scorchers
Leah Galton	Rilwood Associates	
Billie Murphy	On behalf of St Gemma's Hospice	

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- Company branding in every match day programme and on the club's web site.
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- 2 free tickets and programmes for every home league game.
- Invitation to the end-of-season Presentation Evening.

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- A visit from a National Premier League player to your club
- Your chosen player's shirt presented to your club at the end of the season
- Twenty FREE child tickets to EVERY home league game
- Invitation for up to four of coaches to come to a first team training session with a question & answer with the first team manager afterwards
- Invitation for one of your teams to come and meet the players
- Invitation for one of your teams to be ball girls at a home game (max 12 players)
- Signed first team photo and signed photo of your chosen player
- Tickets at any cup final Leeds United Ladies participate in

Contact the club for more details and pricing.

Table & today's fixtures



FA Women's Premier League National Division 2011-2012							
POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Coventry City Ladies	6	4	1	1	5	13
2	Leeds United Ladies	5	4	0	1	6	12
3	Aston Villa Ladies	5	3	1	1	11	10
4	Sunderland Women	5	3	1	1	7	10
5	Charlton Athletic Women	6	2	1	3	-1	7
6	Barnet FC Ladies	4	2	0	2	6	6
7	Reading FC Women	5	2	0	3	-9	6
8	Cardiff City Ladies	3	1	2	0	1	5
9	Nottingham Forest Ladies	4	0	0	4	-9	0
10	Watford Ladies	5	0	0	5	-17	0

Other National Division fixtures today

Cardiff City v Charlton Athletic
Nottingham Forest v Barnet
Sunderland v Reading
Watford v Coventry

Possible fixture changes

Leeds United Ladies has a first round County Cup tie away to Bradford Park Avenue scheduled for Sunday 16 October, so the trip to Cardiff City Ladies will be postponed until the New Year.

If the club wins that tie, the second round game will be at home to either Huddersfield or Leeds Medics and Dentists, on Sunday 20 November. In this instance, the game against Reading FC Women will also be postponed.

Our fixtures & results

FA Women's Premier League National Division

All fixtures are subject to change owing to international competitions, cup ties and the weather! Check www.leedsunitedladies.com or twitter.com/LeedsUnitedLFC for the latest fixture news.

Sunday 21 August 2011	Watford Ladies (home)	FA WPL	W 2-0
Sunday 28 August 2011	Barnet FC Ladies (away)	FA WPL	W 1-0
Sunday 4 September 2011	Coventry City Ladies (home)	FA WPL	L 1-0
Sunday 11 September 2011	Nottingham Forest Ladies (away)	FA WPL	W 2-0
Sunday 18 September 2011	Reading FC Women (away) POSTPONED	FA WPL	
Sunday 25 September 2011	Charlton Athletic Ladies (away)	FA WPL	W 2-0
Sunday 2 October	Aston Villa Ladies (home)	FA WPL	
Sunday 9 October 2011	Sunderland Women (home)	FA WPL	
Sunday 16 October 2011	Bradford Park Avenue (away)	County Cup 1	
Sunday 23 October 2011	Watford Ladies (away)	FA WPL	
Sunday 30 October 2011	Barnet FC Ladies (home)	FA WPL	
Sunday 6 November 2011	Coventry City Ladies (away)	FA WPL	
Sunday 13 November 2011	Nottingham Forest Ladies (home)	FA WPL	
Sunday 20 November 2011	Reading FC Women (home)	FA WPL	
Sunday 27 November 2011	Charlton Athletic Ladies (home)	FA WPL	
Sunday 4 December 2011	Aston Villa Ladies (home)	FA WPL	
Sunday 11 December 2011	Sunderland Women (away)	FA WPL	
Sunday 18 December 2011	Cardiff City Ladies (home)	FA WPL	
<i>Sunday 5 February 2012</i>	<i>Third Round</i>	<i>FA Women's Cup</i>	
To be arranged	Reading FC Women (away)	FA WPL	
	Cardiff City Ladies (away)	FA WPL	
Games still to be arranged this season: West Riding County Cup ties, Premier League Cup ties.			



Leeds United Ladies

- 1 Jules DRAYCOTT
- 2 Emma COATES
- 3 Stacey EMMONDS
- 4 Hayley SHARP
- 5 Faye BIRKBY
- 6 Jess ROUND
- 7 Emma LIPMAN
- 8 Clare SYKES (captain)
- 9 Carey HUEGETT
- 10 Tanya RICH
- 11 Leah GALTON
- 12 Bekki BASS
- 13
- 14 Sarah DANBY
- 15 Vanessa HOLMES
- 16 Emma JOHNSON
- 17 Amy TURNER
- 18 Billie MURPHY
- 19 Millie BRIGHT
- 20 Jess HOLBROOK
- 21 Nat STANOFF

Aston Villa Ladies



- Naomi BRUTON
- Kelly CLARKE
- Natalie COURTNEY
- Carly DAVIES
- Louise FELLOWS
- Emma FOLLIS
- Natalie GIBSON
- Jennifer LOWE
- Sherry McCUE
- Natasha MERRITT
- Katy MORAN
- Danielle PETROVIC
- Chantelle REEVE
- Jade RICHARDS
- Erin VAUGHAN
- Megan WALSH
- Katie WILKINSON
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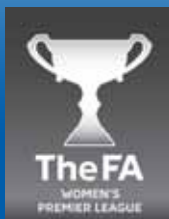
Manager: Chris Welburn

**Coaches: Claire Robinson,
Nick Dingwall**

Physio: Alan Scorfield

Manager: Rob Williams

**Coaches: Sean Green, Marco Pratt,
James Moore, Simon Noakes**



Officials

Referee: Jane Simms

Assistants: Ann Lee, Chelsey Andrews