

## Rayo Vallecano vs FC Barcelona | La Liga | 25 Nov, 09:00 | Livesport36

Rayo Vallecano entered their La Liga match against defending champions FC Barcelona hoping to upset the league leaders. While Rayo Vallecano plays inspired football at home, containing Barcelona's talented attacking trio of Lionel Messi, Luis Suárez, and Antoine Griezmann would be a tremendous challenge.

Barcelona came out pushing the pace, dominating possession as expected. Their intricate passing along the wings stretched Rayo Vallecano's defensive lines. In the 15th minute, Lionel Messi found Suárez in whose shot deflected in off the post for the opening goal. Rayo Vallecano struggled to maintain pressure on Barcelona's defense and generate any attacks of their own in response. As the first half wore on, Barcelona continued probing for opportunities to extend their lead. And in the 31st minute, Griezmann broke through along the left sideline, cut inside avoiding a tackle, and curled a beautiful shot 💥 into the far corner beyond the desperate dive of the Rayo Vallecano keeper.

To their credit, Rayo Vallecano regrouped at halftime and came out with renewed effort in the second half. Their high pressing bothered Barcelona's rhythmm and won back possession in dangerous areas. In the 63rd minute, Rayo Vallecano captain Óscar *梁* received a clever ball with his back to goal just outside the box. He turned swiftly and fired a rocket into the top corner, giving his team hope. Rayo Vallecano upped the intensity, trying to capitalize on their momentum. But Barcelona steadied themselves and regained control. Messi nearly added another in the 74th minute but was denied by another great save. As Rayo Vallecano threw everyone forward in stoppage time searching for an equalizer, Barcelona put the game away on a counter through substitute Luis Suárez who chipped the onrushing keeper for 聾 his second of the night, and Barcelona saw out the 3-1 victory with ease. -

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