



St. Mary's Football Club

### **Match Report**

"St. Marys battle to hard fought victory!"

St. Marys 4-1 Bryansburn

St. Marys started with the same 11 that had started the previous week against Bangor, but any thoughts of an easy win soon vanished with Bryansburn setting themselves up with a 5 man defences which St. Marys couldn't get to grips with early on and found hard to break down. St. Marys started slowly and couldn't get the usual free flowing passing going due to the bad pitch at Ormeau park. Bryansburn settled quicker and pegged St. Marys into their own half for the opening few minutes of the game. Brendan Morgan kept Bryansburn out with a great double save and another fingertip save coming from the resulting corner. St. Marys did manage to create a few half chances in the opening 20 minutes but they were limited to long range shots which the Bryansburn keeper was able to deal with. Bryansburn did eventually beat Morgan in the St. Marys goal when the Bryansburn attack forced an error in the St. Marys back line and the Bryansburn forward neatly finish. Manager Stevie Turner decided to change the tactics slightly with Dylan Le Mahieu and Conor Birch swapping position on the left and right wings. St. Marys began to come into the game with 5minutes of the first half remaining with the unusually quiet Murdock and Gorman starting to make their mark on the game. At half time St. Marys found themselves behind for only the 3rd time this season.

St. Marys regrouped at the start of the 2nd half with team captain Eoin O'Hare questioning were the "commitment and determination of the last few weeks had gone." McAllister and G.Morgan up front became more involved at the start of the 2nd half and St. Marys became the team looking more likely to score. Girvan and Turner at full back found themselves in a lot of free space and were able to start most of the St. Marys attacks by bringing Le Mahieu and Birch into the game and giving Murdock a license to run at the Bryansburn defence. Gorman was breaking down any Bryansburn's attacks and showing off his range of passes. Deazley was then introduced for McAllister up front. St. Marys continued to press and it was only a matter of time before the equalizer would arrive when a defensive mix up saw Gareth Morgan coolly finish past the keeper. On the left hand side Le Mahieu and Girvan were linking well and chasing a lot of problems to the Bryansburn right back. Birch was also becoming more involved in the game and was determined to get a goal after a run of 4 games without scoring, the determination soon paid off when Birch found the ball at his feet inside the box and he finished superbly under pressure to give St. Marys the lead. Bryansburn heads had dropped and as the St. Marys management urged the team calm the game down, Girvan played a pass to Le Mahieu who took 1 touch and banged the ball into the top corner from 30 yards in what has to be a contender for goal of the season. At 3-1 St. Marys had the points in the bag and began to pass the ball around and play the nice football that had gone missing in the first half. Jordan Burke and Eoin O'Hare were solid at the back and let nothing get past them. Seamus Girvan was placed up front

with Gareth Morgan being replaced by Niall Magee who slotted into left back. Brendan Morgan was also replaced in nets by Sean Mahon, who coolly caught a high ball under pressure in a rare attack from Bryansburn. With a few minutes of the game to go Murdock picked the ball up in midfield after a pass from Gorman and made a driving run at the Bryansburn defence showing great strength to hold off numerous tackles and to coolly pass the ball to Girvan at the back post who continued his recent scoring run by tapping in at the back post. The final whistle soon sounded for another win for St. Marys.

After the game St. Marys knew they made hard work of the victory but were delighted to win the game. Another show of character from the team and which showed a lot of team spirit to come from a goal behind to win comfortably.

Man of the Match: Dylan Le Mahieu