



St. Mary's Football Club

### **Match Report**

St Marys 3 CSP 0

St Mary's U17s went into this game off the back of a NI cup victory over Larne youth the week before. Confidence was high in the team but attitudes had to be right for the tie that lay ahead.

A reshuffled side due to injury and players being rested caused no alarm for concern as the replacements stepped up to the mark! St Marys started the game on the front foot, posing a threat from the very off! Pressure came from down the flanks with Michael Donnelly and Conor Magee working well on either side. Wave after wave of attack came and Matthew Harvey created some half chances but couldn't find the back of the net. It wasn't until 20 minutes into the half when the scoring opened, when the saints broke away from a rare CSP attack and the ball was played from the middle of the mark to Matthew Harvey who went past a defender with ease and unselfishly squared the ball to TJ who slotted the ball into the empty net. St Marys upped the pressure from then on with TJ, Matthew Harvey and Conor Magee in particular creating havoc for the CSP defenders. Pearse Magee was solid in the middle putting in some hard tackles and playing the easy game. St Marys grabbed a second through a smashing strike from Conor Magee just before half time. Good play down the left resulted in the ball landed to the wee man on the edge of the box and it was roofed into the net. Conor now had 3 goals in 3 games but it wasn't to end there for him.

Half time came and the u17s were in a comfortable position! Bopper came off at half time through injury and Sean Lyttle was his replacement, opting for a 3-4-3 formation. The team were told to be wise in possession and more clinical upfront.

The team went out more attack minded in the second half. In truth the final scoreline was expected to be much higher, but St Marys final ball often let them down and the CSP keeper pulled off some fine saves. The u17s hit many long range attempts with many going close, and it wasn't until a bad mistake from the Keeper which led to the third goal. Again Conor Magee shot from long range and the ball somehow slipped under the keeper's foot. 3 0 it stayed for the remainder of the game.

What must have been a boring game for keeper Matthew Gibson who did not make a save and had rare touches, however the defence was good in their use of the ball while when rarely tested stood strong. The three points were taken and that was the priority, a clean sheet and the few goals is a bonus.