



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

St Marys FC Under 10 vs. Cliftonville Whites

A wet morning on the 1st of October versus Cliftonville for St Mary's Thunderhawks. Again a great start from Ryan Russell who got the ball rolling, using his strength and flair to take on three Cliftonville players and slotting the ball home. The rest of the first period it was nip and tuck between the two teams, again Darragh Johnson making another notable save in nets to keep to St Mary's in the lead at the break.

Cliftonville came out much better in the second period putting the defence of Denis Price and Eoin Donnolly under pressure. Ben Dougan on his debut for St Mary's tried getting the Thunderhawks going again with his unselfish play by passing the ball. David Smyczek closed down well and put in some great tackles along with Conor Eastwood as St Mary's dug deep to try and get their foothold in the game.

They finally got their reward for their effort. In the final period, a free kick from Conor Quinn from in front of the Cliftonville dug out, bounced and rolled into the net with nobody wanting to claim it. Quinn obviously was more than happy to take it! It was a domino effect here after. From the Cliftonville kick off, Russell scored again with a lovely passing move involving Conor O' Neill, Smyczek and Odhran McAtamney. Following this, St Mary's scored again with Russell getting the credit once more. Coach Price was urging his players not to take the foot off the pedal and to keep pouncing on their opportunities. It was all St Mary's in the final period with shot after shot from all different angles bombarding the Cliftonville defence. Many shots were cleared off the line and the Thunderhawks could've scored ten in the final period. A clearance from the Cliftonville 'keeper hit McAtamney in the face and nearly went in!

The Thunerhawks have a lot of positives to take from the game, clearly the better side when they wanted it. They should be proud of the character they showed to peg back the deficit. Although he may not think it, Conor O' Neill shouldn't be discouraged as his effort in midfield helping the defence and getting forward to lead the attack didn't go unnoticed by Coach Price and Coach Johnson. Russell with his hat trick was a key figure, but every Thunderhawk should be happy with the effort put in.

Man of match: Ryan Russell

