



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

Under 16

St Marys FC 4-2 Ballynure

Goalscorers: Cormac Eastwood (49), Ross Mackin (54), Cormac Eastwood (67), Aidan O'Reilly (73)

The game started off on the back foot for St. Mary's as Ballynure took advantage of their big home pitch with long balls. It was very obvious that they had a game plan going into this game as they had been very fortunate against us last season with a result in both games. The first half was an exciting half for the neutral but St. Mary's could not get into their rhythm of nice football which they had been displaying all week in training. Although the game was very end to end, helped along by a wet playing surface, neither goalkeeper had much to deal with in the first half. As St. Mary's struggled to settle into the game there was the fear that frustration might get the best of us.

At half time the warning was that the players had gone into the game expecting to win before even touching a ball. Ballynure were the better team in the first half and as half time settled the St. Mary's side down, it was only a matter of time before the team rectified this to take the game with both hands.

The second half began as the first should have with St. Mary's applying a lot of pressure around the Ballynure goal. As St. Mary's won a corner almost 10 minutes into the game, Cormac Eastwood popped up with the first goal. This changed the game as confidence began to take over. The second goal came not long after, as Ross Mackin scored the goal of the season so far, taking the ball around two defenders and blasting it into the top corner from an impossible angle. As St. Mary's were cruising, Ballynure hit us on the counter attack winning a throw deep into the St. Mary's half. As the ball bounced around the box a deflected shot beat Shay Bannon to make the score 2-1. We feared that this might allow Ballynure to come back into the game but 7 minutes later Cormac Eastwood took the game back with a tremendous effort from 25 yards out which went straight into the roof of the net. Aidan O'Reilly made it 4-1 not long after as his shot beat the keeper to roll into the bottom corner of the net. With not long left Ballynure were gifted a very generous free kick on the edge of the box for a hand ball which clearly was controlled by Jonathan Hoey's chest. Ballynure's forward struck the ball well for a consolation goal followed shortly by the whistle.

A good result, but not quite the great performance we have seen throughout the beginning of this season. This win brings St. Mary's to second in the table with a game in hand.

Man of the Match: Cormac Eastwood