



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

Under 16

St Marys FC 0-0 Carrick Rangers

(Bookings: C. Eastwood, G. Christie)

Man of the Match: Paddy McDiarmid

This was the game we had been looking forward to all year as this was the last team to beat us last year in the cup. The game was set at a great pace from the word go as St. Mary's looked more organised than usual. With great collective defending, Carrick were restricted around goal. St. Mary's looked very patient this week with nice spells of possession in which Carrick were left chasing the ball all around the pitch. This great start could have been spoilt by an error at the back which allowed the Carrick forward to be one on one with the keeper, had it not been for Shay Bannon who pulled off a world class save, Carrick would have taken the lead. St. Mary's bounced back however as great work all round led to chances around the oppositions net. St. Mary's could have taken the lead shortly after as Tiernan Kane put the ball in the net only for the referee to call it offside, a very close decision. The game stayed end to end until the end of the half.

Going into the second half the game got feistier as a number of fouls were made, this led to a fast pace being introduced to the game. As St. Mary's began to edge the game and create more and more chances, Paddy McDiarmid ran on to a through ball and slotted the ball into the net, only for the referee to disallow another goal. This time there was no argument that the player was onside as 3 of the Carrick defence were playing him onside, but the referee decided otherwise. Two thirds into the game, Tiernan Kane made way for Aidan O'Reilly as St. Mary's tried a different approach in attack. As St. Mary's sat back and played a very patient game hitting Carrick on the counter attack, the last twenty minutes were hard fought by both teams with the majority of possession being fought for in the centre of the pitch. Although Carrick won several corners and free-kicks around the box, St. Mary's looked comfortable all day in defence.

The game was one which demanded a good hard working performance from every player, thankfully everyone played well with not one slip up in any positions. The fight and determination of the team was what should have earned us 3 points, a great game from Ross Mackin in particular who came very close to the Man of the Match award. Fiontan Eastwood also played excellently along with each member of his backline. The skill and determination of Cormac Eastwood and Declan Kane, with the tackling of Gerard Christie also helped maintain a hold on the game.

After 80 minutes of football the game ended goalless, definitely the most enjoyable football match all year despite the score line. Hopefully St. Mary's can continue this work rate next week against league leaders Comber Rec FC in what will prove to be two very tough back to back fixtures.