



St. Mary's Football Club

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## Match Report

### St Mary's UI6 Score Another Great Win

#### **St. Mary's F.C 5- 3 Comber Rec**

*Goal scorers:* Marty Murphy (19), Gerard Christie (38), Paddy McDiarmid (52), Decky Kane (63), Aidan O'Reilly (81)

*Man of the Match:* Cormac Eastwood

This game was definitely played in the windiest part of Belfast up at Henry Jones playing fields. The game was surprisingly a good footballing affair for the conditions it was played in. As St. Marys pushed forward again and again in the first ten minutes they really should have taken the lead with a couple of great opportunities. The first goal came from Comber however as they used their well practised set pieces to out run their defence and put the ball into the net from the corner. This was just a minor setback. As St. Mary's settled back into the game, controlling the play with great passing football, the equaliser came just 5 minutes later as Marty Murphy slotted the ball home to make it 1-1.

St. Marys went on to build great momentum pressing Comber into their own half again and again. As they squandered great chances, the result could easily have went the other way as Comber kept coming back posing a real threat from long throws and set pieces around the box. St. Mary's could have taken the lead earlier as a ball was played into the Comber box and it appeared the keeper caught it inside the net, however this was not rewarded. As we kept the pressure going until the end of the half, they were awarded a free kick outside the box. As Gerard Christie stepped up to take the free kick, I think everyone knew where the ball would end up. This goal, which rocketed into the roof of the net, put St Mary's into the lead right on half time.

The second half began much like the first with St. Mary's retaining possession, as they pushed for a third goal, it came following a battle inside the Comber box. As the ball came rolling out to Paddy McDiarmid, he bent the ball round into the bottom right corner. At 3-1 St Mary's got complacent and allowed Comber some possession in the middle of the park, however, they remained the dominant team in the match. Combers second goal came courtesy of a very generous penalty rewarded for hand ball as the ball appeared to bounce up and hit Peter Healy accidentally on the edge of the box. At 3-2 St Mary's were quite nervy but all nerves were easily settled shortly after as Decky Kane converted a good cross to make the score 4-2.

As St Mary's pressed and pressed for a 5<sup>th</sup> goal they left their backline outnumbered allowing for the ball to come in off the wing with Comber scoring and making it 4-3. For the neutral, this was a great game but for St Mary's management and supporters at the side of the pitch it was very nerve wrecking.

Manager James Tohill added *'the boys held our shape and defended brilliantly on several occasions, with Shay Bannon in particular pulling off a great save with his foot. A great game and a great result'*.

This allowed St Mary's to break and finally end the game with Aidan O'Reilly scoring their 5<sup>th</sup> goal just into injury time.