



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

St Mary's bring it to the Top

St Marys 4 Albert Foundry 2

St Marys overcame the league leaders with a great display in Mallusk playing fields showing signs of why they should be at the top of the league.

St Mary's U17s came into this game on the back of two impressive victories against Bloomfield and Ulidia in the previous weeks. The 17s started this game like a house on fire, with a lot of energy and pressing the Albert foundry defence right back to their own box. Within the first minute St Marys were awarded a corner, from the resulting corner Conor Campbell grabbed the opener with a 5 yard tap in after Conor Kearny squared the ball across. This set the tone for the rest of the game.

St Marys who were missing Matthew Harvey and Cormac Ross from injury and illness had a different formation about them with the coaches opting for a 4-5-1 formation. This meant St Marys had an extra man in midfield with Conor Campbell having a free role, who on the day was fantastic for the team. Within ten minutes it was 2-0 with Conor Magee collecting a lovely through ball and sliding the ball into the net from the edge of the box! St Marys pressed again and were unlucky not to grab a third with TJ McCaffrey going close on a number of occasions. Albert foundry broke away and pulled a goal back with a tricky run and a shot that evaded Matthew Gibson with the help of the blustery conditions in Mallusk. St Marys had been solid throughout the first half, stopping a very good Albert Foundry from playing. St Marys dominated midfield with Emmett McCracken and Luke Kelly playing stormers and Pearse Magee creating havoc throughout battling well.

Half time and it was 2-1 St Marys.

The second Half began with the St Mary's side again battling well and pressing the Albert Foundry team high up the pitch and causing them to make mistakes. With ten minutes gone Albert Foundry broke away on the counter attack and were wrongly awarded a penalty. Matthew Gibson heroically saved the spot kick and made an even better save from the rebound. This was the turning point in the match. Five minutes later St Marys broke away with TJ being played through to one on one with the keeper and he coolly slotted the ball home. Again Albert foundry rallied back but the centre back pairing of Matt McCann and Conor Kearny remained strong and solid. The saints grabbed a fourth and it was that man TJ again who slid the ball home beating the offside trap to get his second of the game. Deservedly so as TJ led the line brilliantly for the team holding the ball up well,

linking with the midfield men and getting a double.

With five minutes remaining Albert foundry grabbed a lifeline, again a shot from long distance being helped in with the assistance of the wind. Some pressure was put on the defence but they coped really well with Conor burrows being introduced who stood strong.

The final whistle blew with the St Marys players and coaches very delighted with this win. The back four of Jordan, Michael , Conor and Matt where superb in controlling the oppositions attack, the midfield trio of Luke ,Emmett and CC where creative, solid and overpowering of the foundry midfielders and the wingers and frontmen of TJ, Pearse and Conor Magee where full of energy and very productive with the ball. An excellent display from the whole team, Emmett McCracken for a second week was magnificent, Pearse Magee again was superb in all areas and TJ was fantastic in leading the line.

Man of the match: TJ McCaffery