



St. Mary's Football Club

## **Match Report**

### **St Mary's under 9's unbeaten at Play Ball Tournament**

On a cold and frosty winter's morning at the Stormont Playbill Arena both St Mary's team were placed in tough groups. St Mary's Boys were grouped with Rosario, Ards Colts, Hillsborough Boys and Civil Service and St Mary's Colts were put in a group with Ards Youth, Civil Service, Rosario and Sydenham Utd

The first thing to be decided was whether or not the tournament would go ahead as the pitches were covered in frost; much to the relief of the players and the coaches, it was confirmed that the surface was safe and we could play ball at Play Ball.

The St Mary's Boys squad was made up of Dominic McAuley, Deaglan McDiarmid, Dylan Magill, Rory McCabe, Jack Maguire, Omar Beydilli and Deaglan Burns, whereas the St Mary's Colts had Ben O'Reilly, John Joe Walsh, Jude Stewart, Conor Carlin, Caolan McBrien, Jamie McClarnon and Ethan Deery. Both teams had four 12 minute matches to play; one against each of the other teams in the group.

St Mary's Boys first match was against Rosario, a team with a big reputation in youth football and when we were warming up we could see they looked like a strong and well organised team; we knew we would have a game on our hands.

Within 2 minutes of starting our worst fears were confirmed and Rosario scored directly from a free kick. Possibly we could have done better at defending the free kick but the boys took a bit too long to get organised and the free kick taker took advantage of our hesitation and scored. The coaches feared the worst, however what a response from the team. From the restart we created an opportunity to score and we converted it clinically, we then started to dominate the game and scored a second to take the lead. A special mention must go to our goalkeeper Dominic McAuley who made some fine stops to keep us in front for much of the match. Just as the game was drawing to a close Rosario scored the equaliser from a well worked move and the game ended 2 each. Despite going a goal down early on, St Marys got to grips with the opposition and our defence dealt with Rosario very well. Everybody was pleased with our efforts in the first game against a good team and we had a feeling we would go from strength to strength in the remaining matches.

St Mary's Colts kicked off their campaign with a match against Ards Youth. This was a hard fought affair with neither team prepared to give an inch. None of the boys were holding back and some of those watching the game were covering their eyes as both teams tackled hard in order to get control of the ball. Ards Youth scored first but within minutes St Marys finished a great move with the equalising goal. After that both teams had chances to win the game but no-one could apply the finish and the match ended in a draw.

After a short break for some fruit and water (or was that coke and chocolate) St Mary's Boys went in against Ards Colts. The team set to work immediately and very quickly built up a big lead, goals were being scored from all over the pitch and the match eventually finished St Mary's 11 Ards Youth 1; a score which could have bigger had it not been for the efforts of the Ards' keeper. The boys were deservedly happy with the result; however the comments after the game of "bring on Barcelona" were maybe a bit over the top. Dylan Magill scored a spectacular goal in this game which was worthy of winning goal of the tournament.

Next up was St Mary's Colts against Civil Service; by this stage the Colts had got rid of any early nerves and were raring to go. Very quickly it was apparent that there was only going to be one winner and we raced into a solid lead. The match finished St Marys Colts 6 Civil Service 1 and whilst there were some impressive individual performances, what stood out most was how the boys worked hard for each other and performed as a team.

Almost straight away the Colts team were up against Rosario. Despite conceding an early goal the Colts responded in style to run out convincing 4.1 winners. St Mary's Colts final match was against a tough well drilled Sydenham outfit. Goals were exchanged as the match went to 2 each and St Marys coaches had to use the rotation system to good effect as 2 of our boys were injured and had to come off. As the saying goes "when the going gets tough the tough get going" and despite the injuries the Colts chalked up 3 further goals to run out 5.2 winners.

After a short break St Mary's Boys then took on the challenge of Hillsborough Boys. By this stage St Mary's tails were up and it was a very confident team that took to the pitch. Some of the football played by the boys in this match was brilliant and they moved the ball around easily and quickly before finally running out 12.0 winners with several players scoring hat tricks. It was great to see Deaglan Burns getting on the score sheet in this match as he had been an unselfish stalwart defender throughout the day. At one point I'm sure I saw a bulldozer trying to get past him but Deaglan sent it packing without the ball.

After the game against Hillsborough we were pressed back into action immediately against Civil Service, however, such was the level of the boys' confidence at this stage that none of them were concerned about being tired. St Mary's grabbed the game right from the whistle and soon had established a healthy lead, again the football was impressive and the individual ability of the boys noteworthy. This final game of the day ended St Mary's 10 Civil Service 0.

So the final statistics across both St Marys teams were 6 wins, 2 draw, 51 goals scored and 8 conceded. In addition to their impressive results the boys behaved impeccably and were a credit to the club and their parents. Well done under 9's on a great performance and a great day for the club.

St Mary's colts play ball results

St Marys 1 - 1 Ards youth

st marys 6 - 1 civil service

st marys 4 - 1 rosario

st marys 5 - 2 sydneyham utd

st marys colts team

ben o reilly

john joe walsh

jude stewart

conor carlin

caolan mc brien

jamie mc larnon

ethan deery

st marys boys playball results

st marys 2 - 2 rosario

st marys 11 - 1 ards youth

st marys 12 - 0 hillsborough boys

st marys 10 - 0 civil service

st marys boys team

dominic mc auley

deaglan mcDiarmid

dylan magill

rory mc Cabe

jack Maguire

Omar beydilli

Deaglan Burns