



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

St Mary's Athletic kicked off the second half of the season with their first ever appearance on the hallowed turf of Solitude against a strong Rosario side. The lads were quickly into their stride and resumed the same rich vein of form which had finished off 2011. 2 early strikes from Conor O'Neill after good work by CJ Fulton and then by Conor Quinn gave the lads a great platform to build on. The first period saw some great football through midfield where the strength of McAuley and Mowbray combined with the energy of Sean Hagan's and guile of Fulton allowed St Marys to dominate. Conor Eastwood was a largely a spectator in nets for most of the first period with Ryan Russell putting in a great shift in an unaccustomed left back position, ably assisted by Fionn Nagle and Conor Small. On the one occasion when Eastwood was called into action he made a good block and clearance at the front post. Quinn opened his account just before the break with a snap shot on the turn which found its way through the keeper's legs.

In the second period Fulton pulled on the gloves in nets to give Eastwood a run outfield and he acquitted himself well in both attack and defence. The lads lost their way slightly in the 2nd period and the old habits of over running the ball rather than sticking to the pass and move game which had served them so well in the first half. With too many seeking glory they forgot their defensive duties and were caught with too many men pushing forward which allowed a long clearance to send the Rosario striker clean through on goal and he made no mistake as he slotted home past Fulton. Quinn scored his second just before the break slotting a low drive into the corner after good work from Russell. O'Neill & Quinn then both completed well deserved hat tricks in the 3rd period with 2 clinical finishes and Mowbray bagged a goal towards the end with a great turn and shot as the ball dropped to him from a corner to cap a fine all round display by the lads.

Overall there were a lot of positives for all the lads to take away from their performances and their appreciation of the need to PASS and MOVE the ball which we continue to work on week-in week-out in training begins to pay dividends.

On a day when St Marys fielded 5 'Conors' in the Team, obviously a popular name in 2002, there was a 50/50 chance that the MAN of the MATCH would be.... CONOR !!

We'll split the match ball in half for the 2 hat-trick scorers O'NEILL & QUINN