



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

Under 10 Thunderhawks vs. Aquinas

St Mary's Thunderhawks had an early kick off this week with Aquinas Astros as their opponents. Right away it was obvious that it would be a tight affair with both teams exchanging possession. The Astros were well organised but once the Thunderhawks started playing to their strengths they could've easily dominated.

Chris McAuley looked bright on his debut exchanges passes with Conor O' Neill and Ryan Russell. Although it was the final third of the pitch that St Mary's just didn't get their just rewards, Conor Young coming close at a tight angle in his first competitive match for the club. Niall Davey had a great burst forward from his own half and was unlucky not to score only to hit the post. The Astro 'keeper barely put a foot wrong denying the Hawks on numerous occasions. O' Neill used his pace to leave an Astro defender in his starting blocks and squared to ball to Russell who was unlucky not to score just missing wide at the far post.

There were admirable performances from Dougan, Quinn and Morrow who deserve a mention. But it was Conor Eastwood who stole the show for the Hawks, making at least a dozen saves to keep St Mary's in the game. Wearing his trademark sport shades, Eastwood threw himself in front of every ball, made last ditch fingertip saves around the post and even jumped in the air to claim a pinball display in the St Mary's box. When he emerged outfield in the final period, he travelled with the ball well at his feet and made clinical passes down the line to spread the Astro defence but despite to outstanding effort from St Mary's they didn't have the clinical touch today in front of goal.

Coach Johnson and Price encouraged the players not to be disheartened as there's a lot of positives to take from every game they play. Donnolly and Nagle were solid again in defence with Davey helping them out during the match, probably being played out of position. The whole team are eager to bring on the next opponents at Ballysillan next Saturday.

Man of Match: Conor Eastwood