



St. Mary's Football Club

## **Match Report**

### **St Mary's U10 Thunderhawks versus Aquinas All Stars**

#### **Saturday the 5th of November 2011.**

The Thunderhawks took full advantage of the extra hour in bed this week with their 11am kick off versus Aquinas All Stars.

From the kick off Aquinas were put under immediate pressure from intricate passing from CJ Fulton and Sean Hagan's. Fulton on the left side of midfield twisted and turned past two Aquinas players and squared a killer pass for Hagan's to slot home in the bottom corner. St Mary's excellent play continued in the first period as they continued to do as Coach Price had asked them to do. They played from the defence and used the width of the pitch to their advantage with David Smychzek and Ben Skillen constantly attacking the Aquinas full backs. Skillen pounced on a poor kick out from the Aquinas goalkeeper and used his pace and control to pass the ball into the corner of the net with ease to give the Thunderhawks a fully deserved 2 goal cushion.

The second period was much of the as St Mary's controlled the game with Conor Eastwood rarely tested in goals. The defence of Fionn Nagle and Odhran O' Boyle were solid as ever with Denis Price comfortably sitting in front in the Claude Makelele roll. Price was excellent in his passing not having a stray pass all game continually finding a white shirt. St Mary's increased their lead midway through the period with a pinpoint inswinging corner from Fulton which was met by a diving header by Smychzek which thundered into the net and Coach Price described it as the best goal they had scored all season!

The final period was a much tighter affair between the two sides and it was a much more open game. There was great attacking play from Robert Robertson who could've had a hat trick but a mention has to go out to the Aquinas goalie who made some superb saves from Robertson and Fulton. Adam Weston returning to the side today was excellent, closing down every ball and ran his socks off all game. Hagan's further put the icing on the cake for the Thunderhawks when he scored his second late on the game. St Mary's caught the opposition on the break and Hagan's muscled his way through the defence and blasted the ball home to cap off a great performance. Hagan's deserved his man of the match, helping back to the defence and closing down and tackling brilliantly all game. The most satisfying statistic of the game was the clean sheet which is the Thunderhawks first of the season.

St Mary's continue to build on a strong pre-season and are definitely advancing the skills in training onto the pitch. The structure of their play has come on leaps and bounds, using the wings at every opportunity and crossing many balls into the box to put the opposition under pressure. The passing has been much improved with the pass completion percentage much higher than in previous weeks.

***Man of the Match: Sean Hagan's***