



St. Mary's Football Club

### **Match Report**

St. Mary's 0-2 Willowbank

This was the toughest game of the season so far and St. Mary's continued their run of slow starts to games again this week by allowing Willowbank to start the stronger team. As St. Mary's found their feet they began to give Willowbank very little time on the ball and pressed them all over the pitch. The first half was a very professional performance from St. Mary's as they held their shape off the ball and caught Willowbank off guard on several occasions. The result of the game could have been very different if St. Mary's had taken advantage of the few chances on goal they had. With Willowbank enjoying a fair bit of possession in the first half, they had very few attempts on goal to show for it.

With the first half being played at a very fast pace from end to end it was surprising that both sides went into the break goalless. After a few heavy tackles before the half, the break was much needed to calm down both sides and continue with the football. At half time it looked as though St. Marys were just about edging the game, keeping Willowbank restricted around goal and creating more chances in their half.

The second half began the same as the first as St. Mary's looked half asleep. With the boys not turning up to the second half, the game was there to be won by Willowbank. As we lost our shape and discipline in defending we practically gifted Willowbank the lead. Hoping that conceding a goal would wake us up, it looked to do the opposite as many players began to look defeated. Whilst many looked defeated, a couple of players really did the team justice by creating opportunities out of nothing and by winning possession with some last ditch tackles. As momentum started to build Paddy McDiarmid gave great energy to the team from the bench. Cormac Eastwood also caused a lot of trouble for the Willowbank defence as they doubled up on him out on the wing. As we pressed and pressed it was just looking like one of those days when we would not score. After several failed attempts on goal, the opposition caught us on the break to put the game away. With a lot of players not playing to their potential, Willowbank were the deserved winners of the game. Hopefully this will be a wake up call to the squad as we cannot afford to let any more points slip away if we wish to win this league.

Man of the Match: Cormac Eastwood