



St. Mary's Football Club

## **Match Report**

### **Under 15**

"Gorman determination sees St. Marys through in 10 goal thriller!"

### **St. Mary's 6-4 Ardoyne**

The first North Belfast derby of the season took place at Victoria Park with both sides eager to show off their title credentials. St. Marys made a change at left back with Gareth Morgan coming in for the suspended Niall Magee. St. Marys started the game at a high tempo putting Ardoyne under pressure and keeping possession of the ball with Murdock and Gorman winning their midfield battles but St. Marys were unable to test the Ardoyne goalkeeper. After a well worked move from the midfield the ball was played through to Seamus Girvan who was hauled down inside the box and the ref had no choice but to award the penalty. Owen Murdock coolly stepped up and converted the spot kick sending the keeper the wrong way. St. Marys grew in confidence and within a matter of minutes made it 2-0 when Ardoyne could only clear a corner to the edge of the box where Nathan Gorman was able to volley the ball into the corner. St. Marys then continued to make chances with Dylan Le Mahieu and Seamus Girvan having chances saved by the goal keeper. St. Marys looked to be crushing to a 2-0 half time lead when Ardoyne got a goal back when a shot from the Ardoyne striker was well saved by Brendan Morgan in nets; the rebound hit Gareth Morgan and flew into the bottom corner. The goal clearly rocked St. Marys and Ardoyne finished the 1st half the strongest but some solid defending from the back line of Turner, O'Hare, Burke and Morgan keeping them at bay.

St. Marys switched off for the first 15minutes of the second half and Ardoyne dominated the possession and played the game at their own tempo, after a solid defensive display in the first half St. Marys seemed to fall asleep with Ardoyne able to cut open the defence on a few occasions. Ardoyne soon equalised and an attack from St. Marys broke down and Ardoyne converted from a counter attack. Ardoyne then made it 3-2 with the next attack of the game after St. Marys lost the ball in midfield. Clearly St. Marys shocked at Ardoyne's comeback couldn't get to grips with the pace of the game and couldn't keep hold of the ball. The unthinkable soon followed when Ardoyne made it 4-2, a misunderstanding at the back from B. Morgan and G. Morgan saw Ardoyne 1 on 1 with the keeper and they coolly slotted home, and seemingly killed off St. Marys chances of taking any points from the game. The management decided to freshen things up and replaced the hard working Jack Deazley with Rory McAllister and moved Girvan to left back with Morgan moving to centre forward. Midfielder Gorman sparked St. Marys into life with 2 inspiring tackle and questioning the determination of his team mates. Conor Birch became more involved on the left wing with driving runs and Murdock and Le Mahieu waking up after a quite start to the 2nd half. Ardoyne went in search of a 5th goal when Girvan cleared the ball to McAllister who picked out a great pass to put Le Mahieu through on goal and he slotted home and St. Marys were back in the game. St. Mary's self-

belief grew and started to win the midfield battle with Gorman winning every tackle. Another St. Marys attack followed with Murdock slotting home to level the game with 10 minutes remaining. Ardoyne didn't drop the head though and began to pressure the St. Marys net but again some solid defending kept them at bay and a goal line clearance from Birch kept the game level. Both teams clearly weren't happy with a point each and continued to attack, a driving run from Murdock had Ardoyne on the rack and when the ball landed to Gareth Morgan he cleverly finished the chance and put St. Marys 5-4 ahead with 8 minutes to go. Ardoyne never gave up and pressured St. Marys but solid defending from right back Adam Turner and left back Seamus Girvan stopped the Ardoyne attacks before they reached the St. Marys penalty box. St. Marys began to take control of the ball and were happy to see out the remaining few minutes with some nice passing moves involving Gorman, Morgan, Murdock and McAllister. St. Marys won a corner in injury time and again Ardoyne couldn't fully clear and Le Mahieu volleying home to secure all 3 points and a great 6-4 win over Ardoyne!

In what can only be described as a thrilling contest, St. Marys took all 3 points and manager Steven Turner was delighted by the character shown by the boys to come back from 2 goals down. A great performance and a great win but the management and the players know there is a lot more to come!

Man of match: Nathan Gorman