

ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Match Report – 6/11/04

Buckingham Town 2 St. Neots Town 1

St. Neots run of six games undefeated came to an end at Ford Meadow on Saturday at the hand of Buckingham Town. Having outplayed their hosts for much of the first half Saints Jeckle and Hyde season came back to haunt them, during the second period, when they could only make an occasional excursion into their opponents half. Buckingham looked the side of old after the break and whatever their manager, Morrell Mason, said at half time certainly worked.

Saints probably should have won the game during the first half but a one goal lead always looked a little fragile. Liam Harrold forced Buckingham's keeper, Sean Griffiths, to make a finger tip save over the bar, from a powerful header after Paul Bloss had delivered a telling cross to the back post. Minutes later Damien Matthews headed just over the bar from a Russell Lawes corner kick. A slick move involving Lawes and Foster gave centre back Ian Trott a good chance at the back post but his shot went just wide of the target.

Saints finally broke the deadlock on thirty minutes when Mark Burrows slotted the ball past the home keeper from close range. The build up to the goal was by far the best of the game and involved five St. Neots players moving the ball with speed and accuracy that left the Buckingham defence stationary. Unfortunately Damien Matthews could not make the second half through injury which was a big loss for the Saints manager Jon Taylor. Matthews who had been moved into midfield, for this game, had controlled much of the game during the first period.

Buckingham's early determination, to get back in the game, culminated in a good headed effort by Martin Young within minutes of the re-start. The equaliser came by virtue of a goalkeeping error when Saints keeper, Matt Finley, allowed Ruben Max-Grants low shot to squeeze through his legs and creep into the net. Although Buckingham surged forward for the winner Saints always looked dangerous on the break and were unlucky not to regain the lead from a first time volley from Liam Harrold. Although St. Neots soaked up much of the pressure a last minute goal from Buckingham's Martin Young secured the points for the home team.

Team: Finley, Lawes, Bloss, Hoggett, Trott, Burrows, Jelley, Matthews, Harrold, Hobbs, Foster.

Subs: Griggs, Giscombe, Dellar, Willis, Fortune.

Subs Used: Griggs for Matthews, Dellar for Hobbs, Willis for Lawes.

Goals: St. Neots: Burrows (30). Buckingham: Max-Grant (78), Martin (89).