

St. Neots Town Football Club
Season 2006-07 Match Reports

UCL Premier Division
St Neots 3 S/L Corby 2

Just three minutes from time St Neots snatched a late goal to give them what could be a priceless three points to record a fourth consecutive league victory since the turn of the year. The points lifted them up two further places in the table to fourteenth – now eight points above the relegation zone. The goal came from new signing Cameron Facey – formerly on the books on Northampton Town after he had been on the field just six minutes and the goal was supplied by Michael McKenzie – another player making his debut for the club. In fact it was a night for new faces to make an impact because former Huntingdon Town youngster Ryan Francis was given his first start and he impressed with his non-stop style leading the attack for the first 81 minutes of the match. The visitors began the evening two points ahead of their hosts so the victory was vital in what was a so called ‘six pointer’.

There was one early scare for St Neots when Sean Brennan was played clear on goal but he could not take advantage and then St Neots got the perfect start with a seventh minute opener. Craig Reynolds created the chance on the right and when his cross took a deflection Michael McKenzie pounced to slot home from close range. Reynolds was then close with a second effort and McKenzie fired just wide with the visiting keeper beaten. After enjoying this spell of early pressure St Neots conceded a soft equaliser as Greig McIlwaine sent over a corner that was not defended and when Liam Boath’s shot rebounded from the crossbar he netted the rebound through an untidy looking defence. Both sides then had chances to take a half time lead with Tom Moran’s header from a Reynolds corner coming back of the post at one end and Martyn Patching making a brave save at the feet of Bobby Drain who was clear on goal.

It took St Neots just sixty three seconds after the restart to regain the lead. Once again McKenzie was integrally involved with some clever play on the bye line and he set up Craig Reynolds to score from a very tight angle. This seemed to spur the visitors and they responded with their second goal after 56 minutes. This time McKenzie was involved in a way he would rather forget as he carelessly gave the ball away under no real pressure and it was swept forward by Drain to Paul Doherty who skipped through the defence and took advantage of goalkeeping hesitancy to score. After this second setback St Neots had their best spell of the match and created several chances in a match that flowed from end to end. Craig Reynolds was unlucky when his low shot rebounded from a post and visiting keeper Richard Lavin produced fine saves to deny Ryan Francis and Jason Darvall. However the introduction of Cameron Facey proved pivotal as his electric pace allowed him to glide past two defenders and claim the winning goal.

Team: Martyn Patching, Mark Franklin, Russell Lawes, Jimmy Dillnut, Tom Moran , Tony Russell, Ivan Finch (Ed Huckle 71 mins), Jason Darvall, Ryan Francis (Cameron Facey 81 mins), Michael McKenzie, Craig Reynolds.

Sub not used: Tom Malins, Joe Jordan, Ryan Hunt.

Goals: Michael McKenzie (7 mins), Craig Reynolds (46 mins), Cameron Facey 87 mins).

Man of the Match: Ryan Francis