

St. Neots Town Football Club
Season 2007-08 Match Reports

UCL Premier Division
St Neots Town 1 Wellingborough 2

St Neots surrendered their unbeaten league record this season after being outplayed by visitors Wellingborough in the last twenty minutes of this match. For the third time in eight days St Neots led 1-0 at the break but this time they failed to hold on for a share of the points conceding two goals in the final seven minutes of the game. They enjoyed much the better of the first half play yet failed to make their possession and better scoring chances count and they can have no real complaint after Wellingborough showed that winning matches requires playing for the full ninety minutes. Even the introduction of second half substitutes failed to inspire St Neots whilst both Wellingborough goals came from fresh legged substitutes.

St Neots had two chances in the opening three minutes of the game. Tony Russell unmarked at the far post failed to hit the target with a header and then Jon Hoggett brought a fine full length save from John Hughes. Jon Mitchell had Wellingborough's only early chance firing weakly at goal after being put through on the left whilst Barrington Belgrave won the ball well between two defenders but stabbed his shot wide. Roy Bloxham in the St Neots goal had a relatively quiet first half but he did produce one important save from a snap shot from Michael Sneddon after 21 minutes. Four minutes later St Neots pressure paid off as a Belgrave shot was headed away without any real length and it fell to Ryan Francis who gave Hughes no chance with a well placed volley for his second goal in three matches.

At half time Martyn Patching replaced Bloxham in the St Neots goal with the latter suffering from a recurrent back injury. Then after 53 minutes Belgrave was clearly brought down from behind as he made for goal but the Referee well behind play waved away justified penalty appeals. At the other end Patching's goal was fortunate to stay intact when a clever lob from Mitchell beat the keeper but Nathan Buckland got back to acrobatically divert the ball onto a post and away. Both Belgrave and Barry brought saves from Hughes but midway through the half Saints Manager Scott Houghton opted to replace his most impressive striker Ryan Francis with John Coley. This signalled the introduction of two attacking substitutes by the visitors both of whom were to go on and score. With seven minutes left Adam Hancock headed down a cross from the right and Alfie Taylor was quickly in to drive the ball past Patching to level the scores. By now it was all Wellingborough as St Neots struggled to get out of their own half and two minutes from the end of a generous added time Dan Grainger outwitted two tiring defenders on the bye line and crossed low to the near post where Adam Hancock flicked the ball in for the winning goal. It could have been a different outcome had St Neots been able to capitalise on their impressive first half showing.

Saints: Bloxham, Finch, Lawes, Hoggett, Buckland, Russell, Franklin, Belgrave, Francis, Kuhne, Barry.

Subs: Patching (for Bloxham 46 mins), Coley (for Francis 67 mins), Beevor (for Belgrave 78 mins), Fisk & Fehmi.

Scorer: Ryan Francis (25 mins)

MOM: Tony Russell