

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

UCL Premier Division
Northampton Spencer 0 St Neots 0

Despite, once again, missing a number of first team regulars due to injuries and unavailability St Neots gained a creditable scoreless draw in their final match of the season at Northampton Spencer. James Duckett made a fine debut at right back and if nothing else the last few matches have shown Manager Marvin Johnson that there are a number of good young players at the Club which bodes well for the future.

Although there was an "end of season air" as the match kicked off St Neots played some neat attractive football after Spencer had almost scored in the first minute of the game with a shot that just cleared the bar. Both sides lacked a cutting edge near to goal with Jamie Osborne out of sorts leaving Stuart Pink often battling away on his own up front. Duckett set Danny Marlow up for a shot after 25 minutes and Matt Collins was just wide with a header for the home side on the half hour. Play opened up a little bit after that with Dean McElroy just missing the target after an Osborne knock down. Steve Jelly replied with an effort for Spencer before a neat interchange saw the ball just run away from Osborne. In the final minute of the half James Hall broke down the left passing to McElroy who set up Dean Hamilton for another shot that just went past the upright.

The second half started quietly but after five minutes Ryan Rayner had to be alert to push a shot from the edge of the box by Guiei round the post. Collins then had a chance with a header before Saints went to the other end where Osborne had a shot blocked. Tony Russell made a fine clearance at the expense of a corner a few minutes later from which Jamie Moss should have done better with his header and given Spencer the lead. After an hour, Rayner was in action again as he tipped over an effort from Jelly and then on 65 minutes Saints almost snatched the lead as Osborne rounded the keeper and pulled the ball back to Pink who saw his shot cleared off the line. With 15 minutes to go, Moss missed with another header as Spencer pressed for a winner. Five minutes later, Rayner saved from Darren Frost and then saw Kevin Slinn volley wide as the minutes ticked away. The last action of the game saw Dean Hamilton fire wide from a free kick on the edge of the box; so near yet so far - a fair reflection of Saints season.

Saints: Rayner, Duckett, Bloss, Hamilton, Russell, Dogbe, McElroy, Marlow, Pink, Osborne, James Hall

Subs (not used): Parr, M Johnson

MOM: Tony Russell