

St. Neots Town F.C.
Season 2005-06 Match Report

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

St Neots 4 Ford Sports 1

Player/manager Steve Kuhne has scored more than 300 UCL goals – more than half of them for St Neots – but he has seldom had a better afternoon than he had last Saturday when he rewrote the record books. He scored all four St Neots goals in their 4-1 victory over Ford Sports to lift his tally for the season to 42 in league and Cup, and also taking him to his highest individual tally for a season and the highest number scored for St Neots in a season since their return to senior football. It was the first time he has scored four in a match for the club and there are still at least eleven matches left for those figures to be further improved. He achieved it without the support of his regular strike twin Gary Walker who was unwell and this let in 17 years old Sean Murray for his first senior start and although he did not score he can be proud of his first showing full of enthusiasm and strength.

There was a gale blowing down the pitch at the start of the game and St Neots found themselves kicking against it. As a consequence Fords enjoyed early possession and after eight minutes as the St Neots defence waited for an offside flag Dave Bond let fly with a volley that rebounded from a post. Three minutes later the visitors went ahead with a fluke goal as visiting player/manager Shane Geary floated in a long lob that Steve Young seemed to misjudge and the ball sneaked in at his near post. Those two early efforts were the sum total of Fords first half attempts on goal and then St Neots settled down to dominate. Kuhne had the ball in the net after 16 minutes rules out by an offside flag and within two minutes he could not believe his bad luck when a header from a Matt Endersby corner beat the keeper but rebounded from a post. Sean Murray then wasted his best chance of the game shooting wide after being played clear by Kuhne but St Neots did not have to wait much longer for their threatened equaliser. After 26 minutes from another teasing Endersby corner Steve Kuhne swivelled to volley the ball into the net and only a world-class reflex save by Roger Leeson prevented his from doubling his tally. Cameron Clark should have scored but fired wildly over the bar but a minute before the break St Neots did get the half time lead as Jon Hoggett had a shot blocked on the line but he chased out wide to retrieve the ball and cross for Kuhne to add to his tally with a full length diving header.

The game took a strange twist after the break, as St Neots seemed to lose their impetus. For a spell there was a lack of goalmouth incident and Fords sent on all three substitutes in a bid to boost their efforts. However after 66 minutes Kuhne was felled by Ian Giles in the area and he climbed to his feet to sent Leeson the wrong way from the spot to complete his hat trick. Jon Hoggett then went close with a header as St Neots regained the initiative and the victory was completed seven minutes from time with the award of a second penalty kick when substitute Mark Franklin was tripped. There was little surprise when Kuhne ‘volunteered’ to take the spot kick before trotting off for a well-deserved early bath. It was only left to Franklin to fail to score in an empty net in the final minute with the Fords defence absent.

St Neots: Young, Clark (Grant 84 mins), Endersby, Watts, Hurst, Hoggett, Dear, Maltay, (69 mins), Kuhne (Darvall 84 mins), Murray (Franklin 78 mins), Griggs.

Subs not used: Jordan and Matthews.

Goals: Kuhne (FOUR) 26 mins, 44 mins, 66 mins pen, 83 mins pen.