Number 13 - He's gotta wear his goggles 'cause the snow really flies - Saturday 19th December 2015

U8 MATCH REPORT U8 MATCH REPORT ST NICHOLAS

V FRY CLUB COLTS US MATCH REPORT US MATCH REPORT

On the Saturday before Christmas we went to visit St Nick; not the man in the red suit but the Under 8's of St Nicholas in their green outfit. We arrived to find we had a nice long walk to the pitch. Andy was unable to make it along with Keanu, Fin M, Fin W, Bradley W and Kaylum. It was a wet and windy day.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Bradley G

Tristen Tyler

Aran Bartus

Substitutes: James & Cory

We started the first half playing against the wind. The match started at a quick pace with both sides trying to pass the ball in difficult conditions. St Nicks attacked out wide and made a nice passing move to see them clear on goal, Brad was quickly out and blocked the shot which went wide for a corner. From the corner Bartus intercepted the ball and looked up and placed a nice pass to Aran who was away, he skipped past one player and was heading towards goal when he was brought down by a St Nicks player running back. Aran took the free-kick and found Tyler who hit a powerful shot just wide. St Nicks attacked again, this time though it was Tristen who made a last ditch tackle and in a flash he saw Bartus in space near the halfway line. Bartus then moved the ball along to Aran who took a guick touch and got the shot away which was well saved by the 'keeper. The game was becoming a hard battle with both sides putting in a lot of effort. From a throw in taken quickly by Aran he found Cory down the line who went past one player before finding James who jinked past one player before shooting just the wrong side of

the post. Next it was St Nicks' turn to attack and even though we tried to tackle they moved the ball just before we could close them down. They had managed to get to the edge of the area and get a shot away which Bradley tipped around for a corner. From the corner the ball was fizzed into our area and Tristen did well to get to the ball first and went to clear it, but unfortunately the ball went into the back of our net 1-0. James and Cory took the kick off and played some nice football with Tyler involved as well and we were unlucky not to score. James took a guick throw in that found Tyler who had only the goalie to beat. He got his shot away which the goalie cleared away only for it to hit Tyler in the face and go over the goalie into the net **1-1**. Soon after the ref blew up for half time.

HALF-TIME: ST NICKS 1 FRYS 1

The 2nd half started in the same way as the 1st with both sides passing the ball well and getting well timed tackles in what was a very even game. From a St Nicks throw in James intercepted the ball and used his pace and skill to get away from two players. He then went around another before firing an unstoppable shot past the 'keeper 1-2. Soon after St Nicks were attacking in our box when Aran tried to tackle their player just getting the player before the ball; the penalty was given. The St Nicks player looked to place the ball in the bottom corner only for Brad to leap on the ball and make a great save. The passing from both sides was very good on a heavy pitch. Bradley passed the ball to Bartus who waited for the St Nicks player to come to him before a great pass found Aran in space who took the ball to the edge of the penalty box and shot, forcing the goalie into a great save. From the kick-off Tristen intercepted the ball and played Bartus through who hit a shot inches past the post. Tyler tackled a St Nicks player as he was attacking and found James with a nice little pass. James looked up and saw Cory in space. controlled the ball well, looked up and placed the ball into the corner past the diving 'keeper 1-3. From the kick-off St Nicks attacked and shot from distance and Brad dived to save the ball which came back to a St Nicks player, and as he was trying to control the ball Tristen tried to get it off him the St Nicks player fell over and a penalty was given. The penalty was blasted past Brad giving him no chance **2-3**. For the last couple of minutes, we kept our shape and stayed focused and St Nicks were unable to create another chance before the ref blew up for the final time.

FULL-TIME: ST NICKS 2 FRYS 3

Man of the Match – Chosen by Lee for a great game and being very brave to score his goal – Tyler

With Ethem running late and only five players available James helped in the 2nd game. Aran and Tyler also stayed until Ethem arrived. The wind had picked up for the 2nd game and as the players were warming up laughter came from the side-lines as Bartus was having to chase the umbrella that had got away from his Dad for a good 100 meters.

The Game 2 line-up was:

Cory

James Charlie

Bradley G Liam

Substitute: Ethem

We started very well with some great passing between the boys and not long after the start a good ball by James saw Charlie away he crossed to Liam who hit a shot first time which was deflected wide for the corner. Charlie took the corner and found **Brad** in space who took on a player before a sublime finish past the keeper **0-1**. We were playing some really good football and dominating the game. The passing from both sides was of a very high standard and one of these great passes from Charlie sent Liam away who took his time and calmly put the ball in the back of the net **0-2**. Not long after Liam returned the favour with a simple but sweet pass to Charlie on the edge of the area and with a great bit of skill he beat a player and hit an unstoppable shot into the top of the net **0-3**. St Nicks were attacking and were clear on goal, however Cory came out and made a good save. He then rolled the ball out to Ethem who passed down the line to Liam and he cut inside and was looking to put Brad through when he was brought down for a free-kick. Liam hit the free-kick well, the goalie did his best to save the shot but it went under him and into the net 0-4. James picked the ball up at the edge of our area and found Liam who went out wide and hit a cross in to Charlie who hit a shot just over the bar. From a throw in near the half-way line Ethem found James who looked up and saw Brad in space, found him, and Brad hit the shot first time into corner of the net 0-5. From the kickoff **Brad** was quick to get a tackle in and was clear on goal; he hit a thunderbolt from the corner of the penalty box into the far corner **0-6**. St Nicks had

one more attack and got a shot away only for Cory to dive to his right and make a good save.

HALF-TIME: ST NICKS 0 FRYS 6

St Nicks started the 2nd half well and only some good defending from Ethem and James prevented them from scoring. James made one great tackle and passed the ball to Liam who flicked the ball on to **Brad** who went past one player, looked up and saw Liam running into the box and crossed the ball over. One of the St Nicks players was running back and was unlucky to knock the ball past the keeper into the back of the net **0-7**. The wind was picking up and the rain getting stronger which meant that the game became a bit stop start for a bit. Liam played a great cross-field ball to Ethem who took the ball on to the edge of the area and shot, but the keeper got down well and tipped the ball round the post for a corner. **Brad** took the corner into the box, the St Nicks defender tried to clear the ball and was unfortunate to see it fly past the keeper 0-8. From a goal- kick Cory played a simple pass to James who found Liam in space, he went wide and drew two players to him, he then cut back to Charlie who hit a fierce shot, the goalie made a great save to keep it out but Brad was quickest to react and knocked the ball into the back of the net **0-9**. St Nicks attacked from the kick-off and they created a good chance and only a good save from Cory at the near post prevented a goal. Cory was quickly up and saw Brad out wide in space, Brad used his pace and skill to get past the defender and then he waited for the 'keeper to come out before passing the ball past him to nestle in the back of the net **0-10**. St Nicks did not give up and we lost our shape for a couple of minutes and they played some good football to be clear on goal and the striker hit the ball past Cory giving him no chance **1-10**. We then were passing the ball from the kick off when they intercepted the ball and again scored **2-10**. From the kick off Brad passed the ball out wide to **James** who powered forward and then struck a great shot past the 'keeper 2-11.

FULL-TIME: ST NICKS 2 FRYS 11

Man of the Match – Chosen by Paul & Mark for some wonderful passing – Charlie

OVERALL: ST NICKS 4 FRYS 14

Afterthoughts.....

This was a great effort from the 10 boys that played. They all passed the ball well, stuck to their positions and put in a great effort in very hard conditions. The team ethic is really nice to see and players and parents offering to stay for the 2nd game is really appreciated and shows the great bond that is being built. St Nicks lost the first two games of the season but had won all of their games since so to have a convincing win was very good against a team that likes to pass the ball and had a couple of really good players. All this bodes well for the rest of the season and for seasons to come.