

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, CROSSMAGLEN RECORD A HISTORIC WIN

U-14 N.Ireland Soccer Schools Cup

St. Joseph's, Crossmaglen 2, Bangor Academy 1

Date: 11/10/07

Venue: Lismore Park, Crossmaglen

This year St Josephs High School, Crossmaglen entered for the first time in their history the N.I Soccer Schools Cup. The standard of entrants into this competition is the highest across the board at schoolboy level.

This week both the under-16 and under-14 teams from St Josephs H.S., Crossmaglen competed in their first round cup-ties. The under-16's were narrowly beat 5-3 by travelling team St Gabriel's Belfast. However, the under-14 side recorded an historic victory as they beat the mighty Bangor Academy 2-1 in a fascinating home tie.

The game was only 5 minutes gone when St Josephs striking duo of Alan Farrelly and Jamie Carlisle combined well and the latter shot narrowly wide. The midfield pairing of Eddie English and Jemar Hall really dictated the early pace of the game and they were central to all of St Josephs good work. Twenty minutes of St Josephs continuing pressure resulted in a penalty being awarded after Jemar Hall had played a majestic pass through to Alan Farrelly who was upended in the box. Hall stepped up and converted the penalty kick. St. Joseph's 1-0 up. From the restart Bangor really piled on the pressure and only great defensive work from Niall Ward, Christopher Cunningham, Cormac Reel and David Duffy saw the home team sustain this lead. Five minutes to go St Josephs won a much-needed corner. Centre half, Christopher Cunningham, pushed forward creating havoc in Bangors defense and as a result Alan Farrelly poached a typical strikers goal. Half time St. Joseph's 2 Bangor 0.

Second Half commenced with Bangor looking the more likely to score and probably should have only for the goal keeping exploits of Conor Walsh in the St Josephs goal. It really was back to the wall stuff for the ensuing ten minutes but quartet Ward, Cunningham, Reel and Duffy stood strong and thwarted Bangors efforts. Twenty minutes gone and St Josephs mid-field really upped the pace with Gareth Doyle and Jamie Gallogy tackling furiously and demonstrating St Josephs resolve. However, Bangors persistent second half efforts resulted in an unstoppable 30-yard strike, 2-1 the score line. Fifteen minutes left St Josephs introduced fresh legs in the form of Calvin Beattie and Conor Nugent. Both boy's freshness and drive gave the St Josephs team a much needed lift and this carried their team home to a historic 2-1 victory.

Mr. Mc Mahon (PE Teacher) at St. Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen & Malcolm Roberts (Youth Development Soccer Coach) were ecstatic with the boys win and couldn't praise the boys achievement & effort enough. This really was a team effort and every boy who took to the field really committed to the challenge at hand. From goalkeeper Conor Walsh to the defensive four Niall Ward, Cormac Reel, Christopher Cunningham, David Duffy, Mid-field of Gareth Doyle, Jemar Hall (Penalty), Eddie English (Capt.), Jamie Gallogy aided by super subs Calvin Beattie & Conor Nugent Front two Jamie Carlisle & goal scorer Alan Farrelly. Reserves not used Cormac Toner, Jack Kirwan, Darren Rowland, Padraig Moley, Geard Mines all contributed to this fantastic result.

Mr. Mc Mahon also paid tribute to Graham Agnew of Bangor Academy in the sporting manner that he & his team played the game.

Mr. Scally Principal of St. Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen said that the boys were a credit to the school & their community. Mr. Short Head of Junior school echoed these sentiments & concluded that sport really does have an important & positive role to play in the school life of the boy's here at St. Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen.

And finally Malcolm Roberts (Youth Development Soccer Coach) said this victory really has demonstrated that the soccer coaching programmes that have been going on in the South-Armagh area over the past 5 years, of which he has been to the forefront really culminated today in this fantastic result.

Team Sheet Below

<i>Team No's</i>	<i>Names</i>
1	Conor Walsh
2	Niall Ward
3	David Duffy
4	Christopher Cunningham
5	Cormac Reel
6	Eddie English
15	Cormac Toner
8	Jemar Hall
9	Alan Farrelly
10	Jamie Carlisle
11	Gareth Doyle
12	Conor Nudgent
7	Jamie Gallogy
14	Jack Kirwan
13	Calvin Beattie
16	Darren Rowland
17	Padraig Moley
18	Geard Mines