

## **Eastwood Scrape Past Barrhead High 1-0 in a Very Scrappy Affair**

A single goal from Marcus Mandagie managed to give Eastwood the 1-0 win over Barrhead in very blustery conditions. That win moves Eastwood up to 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league on 5 points behind leaders St Ninians.

The game started with both teams trying to get used to the wet and windy conditions but then after about 5 minutes Barrhead were getting the best chances and most of the ball when their first chance came from a long ball over the top to their striker, but a tame shot was easy for Scott Johnson in goal to save. Eastwood's first chance came after good play from Stefan but he dragged his shot wide. Barrhead's best chance of the first half came shortly after when a shot from far out pulled out a great save from Scott in goal. It was mainly Barrhead after that, they had a lot of pressure but didn't really make any attempts at goal as Eastwood's defence stood strong to any chances that they did have. Eastwood's next chance came when a darting run from Harris Mclean ended with a shot, but the keeper was not going to be beaten at his near post. Eastwood took their next chance after a long ball over from Duncan Brash went to Marcus who bullied the defender and the Goalkeeper, the ball fell to him and he rolled it into an empty net to put Eastwood, going on the balance of play, undeservedly 1-0 up. It could have been 2 when Harris again played a one-two with Kyle then Harris cut in and shot it across the keeper but the keeper made a good save. That was the last action of the first half.

The second half started much like the first with both teams jostling for the ball and trying to get used to the wind and the rain. But Barrhead had the best chance of the half when a perfectly timed through ball slipped their striker through on goal but he slotted it just wide of the post. Eastwood had the chance to wrap it up when Kyle Taylor slipped in Keenan Campbell who fizzed it along the 6 yard box but there was no one on the end of it. That happened quite a few times for Eastwood. The Eastwood wingers, Kyle Taylor or Duncan Brash ran down the line cut the ball back and then no one was there to get on the end of the cross. There wasn't really much else happened in the second half apart from right in the dying embers of the game Barrhead had one chance to level when a through ball from the left hand side of the penalty box slipped in their striker but Scott in goal was able to come out make himself big and block the shot.

The game wasn't the best but that was a lot to do with the conditions restricting both teams from how they wanted to play so it led to missed timed tackles, poor passes and heavy first touches from both sides but Eastwood got three points and that is all that matters.