

## **Schools' Football Match Report – Urlingford NS vs Castlecomer BNS**

Urlingford NS faced Castlecomer BNS in what was always expected to be a tough encounter, with both schools having had close battles in recent years. Castlecomer made the brighter start, winning the throw-in and moving the ball quickly before finishing to the net with a strike that goalkeeper Alex Cashin could do nothing about.

Urlingford soon settled into the game, with strong leadership from Dara Hickey at centre back, who drove the team forward and organised play from the back. After six minutes, Urlingford levelled with an excellent passing move, finished by Darragh Joyce after a clever assist from Dylan Tobin. From there, Urlingford took control, pressing from the kick-out and scoring again through Will Bergin after neat interplay with Pdraig Bourke.

With great work around the middle, particularly from Bourke and Eoin Gibbons, Urlingford added two well-taken goals before the break, finished by Cian Doyle and Joyce. At half time, Urlingford held a 3-1 to 1-0 lead.

The second half began in similar fashion, with Urlingford winning the throw-in and Paudie Power pointing after a slick move involving Gibbons. Castlecomer threatened in attack but were met with tenacious defending, with Conal Lyng and Oisín Sweetman outstanding. Rian Lawlor extended Urlingford's advantage with a long-range goal, and fresh legs from substitutes added energy to see the team home.

Urlingford eventually ran out 4-4 to 1-1 winners, maintaining their unbeaten record. While the scoreline suggests comfort, this was far from an easy game against a spirited Castlecomer side. Urlingford now look forward to their next test in the Country Cup.