

St James Post

YEAR 5 STUN YEAR 6 IN END OF YEAR CLASSIC

The young guns of Year 5 were too hot to handle for Year 6, as they put eight past the veterans.

As the school year drew to a close, it was time to begin a new tradition at St James' Primary. The now-annual Year 5 vs Year 6 football match had been the talk of the playground for weeks. Rumours swirled about who would make the cut, but last week those whispers were put to rest. **Coach Brenta** and **Coach Ranentheran** made their selections. Teachers were consulted, behaviour was considered, and the teams were confirmed - ready and raring to go. A couple of late drop-outs meant a last minute call-up for Assistant Manager **John**, who had spent the season alongside **Coach Brenta**, was now plotting his downfall from the opposing bench. Year 5 lost **Shamsu** and were left with just seven players.

The sun blazed down on a scorching day and the teams made their way onto the pitch - Year 6 in the burgundy home kit, Year 5 in the blue away strip. The Champions League anthem echoed around the field, and the buzzing crowd helped build the atmosphere for what was already a heated rivalry. After the handshakes, Year 5 won the coin toss and kicked things off.

The game exploded into life with frantic energy. Both teams knew what was at stake, and the tackles showed there was no love lost between the schools most senior year groups.

It was Year 5 who drew first blood. **Joseph** intercepted a loose pass from **David** in the Y6 goal, and his block deflected straight into the back of the net. The lead didn't last long, though. **Matiwos**, found space and, after being perfectly played in by **Thiago**, smashed the ball into the far corner, giving Y5 keeper **Charlie** no chance.

As the first quarter drew to a close, Year 5 had a kick-in on the right. A connection years in the making - **Eden** and **Ethan**, or as the fans now call them, "E Squared" - linked up perfectly. **Eden** played an inch-perfect pass through the Y6 defence, and **Ethan** slotted the ball home with his first touch, giving Y5 a 2-1 lead at the break.

After the water break, **Coach Ranentheran** made tactical tweaks, and Year 6 came flying out of the blocks. **True** was given the licence to roam and boy did he make the most of it, scoring the equaliser with a calm finish after lovely interplay between **Thiago** and **John**. It wasn't long before they took the lead. **Micah** danced through the Y5 defence and laid it off for **Jacob** to slot into the bottom corner - 3-2 to Year 6.

It could, and should, have been worse for Year 5 if not for two huge defensive factors: **Fred**, a rock at the back, and **Charlie** "The Wall" **Collins** in goal. Time and time again, Year 6 created chances, but **Fred's** last-ditch tackles and **Charlie's** fingertip saves kept them in the game. The Year 6 passing was fluid - **Micah** and **True** showed their experience, **Coach Brenta** needed something to change...



Champions: Team Year 5 lift the very first Year 5 vs Year 6 cup

Enter **Kamil**. Making his debut for a **Coach Brenta** side after a season of being scouted, he didn't disappoint. His stepovers, clever passing, and composed play gave Year 5 an edge. It was **Kamil** who found **Eden** in space. **Eden's** powerful strike was tipped wide by **David**, but **Joseph** was there to tuck in the rebound and bag his second. 3-3 at half-time.

The second half began with renewed belief for Year 5 - and the emergence of their secret weapon: **Bryan**, winner of the school's mini-marathon. While the heat drained the others, **Bryan's** tireless running caused havoc. Winning the ball high up the pitch, he played in **Kamil**, who was fouled on the edge of the area. While many expected **Kamil** to shoot, he instead spotted **Ethan** in space. From nearly the halfway line, **Ethan** struck the ball sweetly - straight into the top corner. The crowd erupted. Year 6 were stunned. **Jacob**, unwilling to accept defeat, tied his laces, pulled up his socks, and took charge. In two minutes, he intercepted two passes and converted both chances past **Charlie** to restore the lead - 5-4 to Year 6 heading into the final quarter.

But the final 10 minutes were all Year 5. Feeding off the energy of the crowd, they surged forward. **Kamil**, linking up beautifully with **Joseph** and **Bryan**, found space to equalise. Straight from kick-off, they regained possession. **Eden** fed **Ethan**, who flicked the ball up and over the outstretched hand of **David** and into the roof of the net - his hat-trick and a 6-5 lead. Year 5 weren't done. **Kamil**, now running the game, found **Joseph** across the box, who made it 7-5. Year 6 still had flashes of brilliance - **Matiwos** with his tricky feet, and **Thiago** going close - but **Ethan's** heroic block in the box was celebrated like a goal. That was the moment the Year 6's fate was sealed. With time running out, there was still one more goal in it - **Joseph** sealed his hat-trick and Year 5's statement victory. **Final Score: Y5 8-5 Y6.**

We caught up with both managers after the final whistle.

"Outstanding!" said **Coach Brenta**. "I couldn't have asked for more from the boys. No one gave us a chance, but we knew that on our day we could beat anyone."

Coach Ranentheran congratulated the Year 5 side: "I'm still proud of my boys. We had two key players missing, but they gave it everything."

Man of the Match: Kamil - a debut to remember, and a game-changing performance.

The pressure's now on Year 5 as they step into the veteran role next year. With a few Year 4s watching from the stands, the next generation already knows what it'll take to beat the new champions.