

SAINTS SUNK AT THE TEMPLE

TEMPLEOGUE UNITED laid down a marker to the rest of the Under-14 Premier Division on Saturday afternoon with an authoritative 2-0 win over major rivals St Kevin's Boys.

A pair of stunning strikes from Stephen Kinsella and Adam White either side of half time confirmed their superiority over the team who many see as their main threat for league and cup honours this season. In front of watching English Premier League scouts, Kinsella (who has been across the water on trial already) and his team-mates showed why many see them as favourites to win the SFAI Cup, putting on a commanding display of attacking football.

Impressive

For their part, Kevin's will take plenty from the game, and though ultimately beaten decisively, they can look to impressive displays from the likes of Sean Whelan in centre mid-field and right-full Luke Wade-Slater as they aim to bounce back from the defeat and chal-

Commanding United seal victory

by IAN GAUGHRAN

Templeogue United	2
St Kevin's Boys	0

■ DDSL UNDER-14 PREMIER

lenge at the business end of the season. In blustery conditions, Templeogue started brightly, looking to take advantage of the wind. Kinsella was a threat on the left early on, and he cut inside before laying off to Conor Davies. Davies let the ball run across him and struck from 20 yards, forcing Luca Gratzler into a smart save. They looked to get Kinsella on the

ball as much as possible, and on 15 minutes he beat Wade-Slater to the endline and flashed the ball across goal, but nobody could get a touch.

Two minutes later, Davies again picked up possession in space at the edge of the penalty area, this time opening his body, he looked to bend the ball into the far corner, but Gratzler pulled off a fantastic finger tipped save.

Having rode the early pressure, Kevin's started to grow into the game, and created chances of their own. Whelan was at the heart of everything going forward for Kevin's, and he drove through the middle before shifting the play to Conor Crowley, whose shot was comfortable for Conor Kearns.

Whelan again wriggled free of a couple of challenges a minute later before letting a shot go, but Templeogue are disciplined at the back, and two bodies came out to block the shot.

As the half wore down, Kevin's looked to have won the psychological battle by seeing out the half on level terms, but Kinsella had other ideas, and when Dara Gibbons dispossessed Jason Groves he took off.

Advantage

Skipping by two tackles, Kinsella looked up, and spotting Gratzler coming off his line, he lifted his shot over the keeper into the far top corner and give Templeogue the lead.

Kevin's started the second half well, and Michael O'Connor forced Kearns into a smart save after 41 minutes after cutting inside and striking with his left foot.

Kevin's were enjoying a territorial advantage, and had Templeogue on the back foot for long periods, but the home side were a constant threat on the break. Ste Hanley's pace was causing problems, and he was instrumental in Templeogue's second.

Battling in the middle of the park, he escaped the attentions of a couple of men and released White on the left.

White's first touch was perfect, and despite Nathan Noone-Garland closing him down, he took the shot on early, fizzing it across Gratzler into the bottom corner. **TEMPLEOGUE:** Kearns, Kinsella, White, Morrison, Corcoran, Reddy (Fox-Walsh), Hannon, Stokes, Gibbons, Davies (King), Hanley Subs: Hopkins, Walsh. **ST KEVIN'S:** Gratzler, Wade-Slater, Doyle, McCourt, Noone-Garland, Whelan, Groves, Mandriou (Rooney), O'Connor (Egan), Bray (Lynch), Crowley.



RIVALRY: St Kevin's and (above) Templeogue