

Sunnybank Saints finals hopes are no longer in their hands after a 5-1 defeat at top of the table St Pauls.

St Pauls started the game with a high tempo and it was clear to see why they were top of the table. They were creating chance after chance but were unable to break the Saints defence.

The pressure, however, took its toll on the Saints defence and St Pauls got their first goal after a through ball split the Saints defence in two. Five minutes later and St Pauls broke away as Saints pushed forward in search of an equaliser. St Pauls striker latched on to a good ball to slot home for a 2-0 lead.

Sunnybank began to start controlling the possession more and creating a few chances. They came close on a few occasions to pulling a goal back but were unable to make any of them count.

St Pauls managed to wrestle the ball off the Sunnybank midfield with 5 minutes to go in the first half, and created a chance which their striker took with an accurate shot powered past the Saints keeper. Sunnybank went into the half time break trailing by 3 goals thanks to the late strike.

The second half began in similar fashion to the first with St Pauls controlling most of the possession. It was however a untidy second half and St Pauls took their first chance to increase their lead to four. Sunnybank changed their formation and threw numbers forward.

**Farhaan Essof** pulled a goal back for the Saints with a fantastic strike from outside the box. It was a well deserved goal for the striker who had been unlucky for some time now.

The goal gave Saints glimmer of hope, but that hope quickly vanished when a lapse in defence allowed St Pauls through with an open goal. With the score now 5-1, St Pauls sat in defence and were happy to see out the game.

Sunnybank went forward looking for some sort of joy but were unsuccessful. The game died down and both teams played out the match in the freezing Brisbane night sky.

Saints will now hope results can go their way if there are any chance of making the finals.

Their next game is against Mansfield Red at 3pm. It promises to be a real tester as it will be the first game during Ramdhaan.