

By John Hudson

The perfect start to the new SSE Airtricity Under 17 League season continued a pace for UCD with a fifth win on the trot when Cobh Ramblers were defeated 2-0 at The Belfield Bowl on Sunday afternoon.



Manager Stephen Fox freshened up the side for this game but the changes he made certainly did nothing to lessen the impact on their unbeaten winning run with the newcomers certainly seizing the opportunity to impress.

A opening goal from top scorer Sean McDonald on 20 minutes, his fifth in five games, gave UCD a satisfactory start.

However they had to wait until two minutes from the finish for substitute Luka Lovic to seal the win with the second.

McDonald who has been in fine form since the start of the season headed past Ramblers 'keeper Christian Begley from close in after a Neil Ferrugia corner had been knocked back across the face of the goal.

The UCD striker might have double the advantage just before the break but he fired wide when

well placed to beat Begley.

A double chance for UCD to go further ahead arrived ten minutes into the second half when Farrugia, put through on the left by McDonald, saw his cracking drive come off the Cobh post and Ryan Meaney following up then hit the rebound off the crossbar.

After that lucky escape Cobh did created a couple of chances themselves to get back on terms and Daniel McSweeney pulled a shot wide of the post when he might have hit the target.

While shortly after UCD 'keeper Finn McGowan did well to save with his legs after Stephen O'Leary got a touch to a great right wing cross from Daniel Moloney.

Cobh went close again but McGowan was able to gather Reuben Henry's stinging low drive before Lovic fired in a beautiful high effort over the head of Begley from outside the Cobh area to wrap up the three points for the unbeaten home side.

UCD: Finn McGowan; Brandon Perry, Joe Manley, Luke Boore, Mark Dignam; Dylan Meaney, Jack Ryan, Sean Quinn, Neil Farrugia; John O'Keeffe, Sean McDonald.

SUBS: Luka Lovic (for O'Keeffe 62 mins), Evan Farrell (for Meaney 74 mins), Dylan Rowe (for Farrugia 81 mins), Yaya Camara (for Quinn 81 mins).

COBH RAMBLERS: Christian Begley; Gordon Walker, James Sweeney, John Browne, Ryan O'Regan, Kajus Vitilevicius, Matthew Lamb, Reuben Henry, Daniel Moloney, Daniel McSweeney; Stephen O'Leary.

Subs: David Ward (for McSweeney 67 mins), Alex Smith (for O'Leary 74 mins), Cian Fleury (for O'Regan 87 mins), George Keating (for Moloney 87 mins), Cameron Hendry, Daniel Ruddy.

Referee: Gavin Colfer.

Assistants: Cillian O'Reilly, Alex Winter.