

## **Match Report thanks to John Hudson**

**Neil Ferrugia made sure UCD went into the mid season break as table toppers with a sparkling display to light up the Belfield Bowl and help the home side earn a comfortable five goal win over Bray Wanderers.**



After a close opening half this SSE Airtricity National Under 17 Southern Elite division clash between these two great rivals was turned on its head with the help of Ferrugia's impressive second half display.

The flying winger grabbed two of UCD's five goals with one coming from the penalty spot having earlier set up Sean Quinn to power home a bullet like header.

Top scorer Sean McDonald's penalty just on half time had given UCD a rather fortunate lead while John O'Keane rounded off an impressive show by the Belfield side with a late fifth goal.

The win keeps UCD on top of the table with Cork City close on their tail after they inflicted a 8-2 defeat on Salthill Devon at Drom.

A totally satisfactory night for UCD manager Stephen Fox who certainly got the perfect response from his side following last weeks' first loss of the season to Cork City at Bishopstown

Bray had matched UCD in the opening half but both the home 'keeper Finn McGowan and his opposite number Ryan Brown were hardly troubled with direct shots.

But a foul on McDonald by Conor Maguire in the closing minute of the half gave the UCD striker the opportunity to put his side ahead from the resulting penalty although Brown did manage to get his hand to the ball but failed to keep it out.

Bray were then unlucky not to draw level early in the second half when Maguire crashed a header off the cross bar from a Jack Whelan free kick.

After that escape UCD took command and Ferrugia raced down the left flank and delivered the perfect cross for the inrushing Quinn to power a firm header past the helpless Brown on 57 minutes.

Eight minutes later McDonald and Ferrugia combined in a delightful link up for the winger to coolly slot home a UCD third goal.

Ferrugia then doubled his own total from the penalty spot with 15 minutes remaining to make it 4-0 after a Bray defender was deemed to have handled in the area.

Substitute John O'Keane completed the scoring in the closing minutes when he turned in the fifth goal from a well delivered Jack Ryan free.

UCD: Finn McGowan; Evan Farrell, Joe Manley, Dylan Rowe, Mark Dignam; Ryan Meaney, Luka Lovic, Jack Ryan, Neil Ferrugia; Sean Quinn; Sean McDonald.

Subs: Yaya Camara (for Quinn 80 mins), Luke Boore (for Rowe 83 mins), Brandon Perry (for Ferrugia 85 mins), John O'Keane (for Meaney 86 mins).

BRAY WANDERERS: Ryan Brown; Conor Maguire, Aaron Malone, Cian Gilson, Jack Whelan; David Gilshenan, Kieran Butler, Michael Gardiner, Evan White, Conor Cummins; Luke Clucas. Subs: Cormac Kelly (for Gardiner 60 mins), Shane O'Loughlin (for Whelan 74 mins), Andy Doolin (for Gilshenan 78 mins), Luke Devlin (for Cummins 80 mins), Luke Somers (for White 83 mins), Jack Henry.

Referee: Tom Dempsey. Assistants: Daniel Murphy, Ciaran Redmond.