

UCD AFC moved into the Final of the 2012 Collingwood Cup.

**Collingwood Cup**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb



**6-0**

UCD eased into the final of the 2012 Collingwood Cup with a 6-0 demolition of The Royal College of Surgeons in the UL Bowl. As semi finals go it was much easier than many had expected but with DCU and Maynooth out of the way UCD were not going to take their opponents lightly. A Mike Arnold hat trick and one each from Ross King, Brian McDonald and Niall Hanley put the Belfield Students safely through to the final.

The game was in its infancy when one of the youngest players in the UCD squad popped up to give UCD the lead. Niall Hanley was into the UCD first team to replace Barry McCabe and his burst into the box was well rewarded. Stephen Doyle show no ill effects from the long trip down from Dublin the same morning as he made good progress down the right hand side. His chipped ball to the back post found Hanley waiting eagerly to take his opportunity. Like a lion stalking his prey he pounced at just the right time and slammed the ball into the back of the net with a powerful header.

UCD were on top from the first whistle and the early goal did not flatter them in the slightest, the second goal came quickly after the first and was just desserts for their attacking play. Sean Buckley picked up possession, puffed out his chest and kicked a sublime ball as he set Mike Arnold off through the middle. Set free, Arnold was not turning back and as he advanced on the keeper, Arnold slotted the ball home calmly.

It was quickly turning into the Mike Arnold Show as the Canadian born striker showed his opposition defence no mercy. Arnold turned provider for UCD's third goal. Drifting out to the wing, Arnold picked up the ball and headed for the end zone. With sufficient progress made and enough surgeons in his wake he slipped the ball into the path of the arriving Ross King who finished coolly past the despairing keeper.

UCD were tearing their opposition apart at this stage and the Dublin students' wing play was something to admire. Stephen Doyle was in the mood to party as again he opened his legs and unleashed his speed on the unsuspecting opposition defence. Brian McDonald was arriving from the opposite wing as Doyle lifted a ball into the box that McDonald gladly accepted and finished with aplomb.

The half time whistle brought an end to the scoring as both teams took a break from their respective stations. Once the action resumed it was normal service resumed as Arnold showed his finishing prowess once more. Brian McDonald took the ball down the left hand side and whipped in a delicious ball that Arnold gobbled up, controlling the ball with one touch, evading the keeper with another and finishing smoothly with his last.

Some of the football on show from UCD's finest was a sight to behold as time and again they looked to grab more goals. The final nail in the Surgeons coffin was not a masterpiece by any stretch of the imagination but it showed when required to mix it up, UCD can. Tristan Dent laid the ball off outside his own box for the athletic Mark McGinley, the UCD keeper produced a ball of surgical precision to slice open the RCSI defence and Mike Arnold was through again. With the prospect of his first hat trick on Irish soil Arnold advanced on goal.

It was the stuff of 90's cartoons as Arnold advanced on goal, the wind in his hair and the ball at his feet. He gave the keeper no chance finishing his hat trick in style.

Mary Immaculate await UCD in the final of the Collingwood Cup. The overcame UCC in the other semi after extra time and will no doubt provide a stern test for UCD's latest batch of Collingwood hopefuls.

**UCD AFC:** McGinley, Dent, Leahy (Keogh), C O'Brolchain, Langtry (B O'Brolchain), Buckley (Fallon), Hanley, King (Sexton), Doyle, McDonald, Arnold