

UCD AFC picked up another 3 points against Colaiste Ide on Wednesday.



UCD AFC guaranteed their place in the next round of the Colleges and Universities League with a 3-1 win over an extremely competitive Colaiste Ide team. Following on from alst week's disappointing 1-0 loss to Trinity it was an oportunity for the Belfield Students to bounce back. Bounce back they did with goals from Tyrone McNelis, Paul Corry and Stephen Doyle grabbing qualification from the group stages.

Colaiste Ide began the game on the front foot and gave UCD very little time on the ball. Space in the midfield was at a premium but UCD's middle three were beginning to gain a handle on events as the first half wore on. A pin point ball was sprung from midfield and Tyrone McNelis found himself one on one with the Ide custodian. McNelis came off second best as the keeper spread himself well and blocked his first effort. Tyrone showed tigerish perseverance to follow up the rebound and bundle it across the line before the covering defender could effect the play.

UCD looked to push forward and take advantage of their lead goal. Robbie Benson went closest from a corner but his glancing header just missed the goal. It was an opportunity missed that UCD would later rue. With Ide causing trouble on the break it looked unlikely the UCD students would hang on and so it proved.

When the goal came it was worth waiting for as UCD made Colaiste Ide work hard to put the ball in the net. Good work down the flank led to a ball into the box that was headed back across goal and the centre forward reacted quickest to take the ball in, turn and finish smartly past McGinley.

With the score locked at 1-1 the second half promised to be an entertaining encounter. Samir Belhout was proving to be a thorn in the home defence's side and his run and shot nearly pushed UCD ahead. Striding past several defenders in a slalom like run, Belhout ended up in the Ide box. As he opened his body to shoot he was closed down quickly and dragged his shot just wide of the opposing goal.

It was all UCD now as Stephen Doyle and Tyrone McNelis began to take advantage of their tiring opposite numbers. Doyle and McNelis combined to give UCD a second half lead. McNelis burst down the right hand side and pulled a ball back across the goal where Doyle was arriving off the opposite flank. Doyle side footed the ball into the top corner and UCD were ahead.

The Belfield students did not look back and pressed home their advantage through a Paul Corry goal. Corry burst forward and picked up the ball clear of the Ide defence. A composed touch and clean finish was all it took as Corry secured the points needed to guide UCD into the next round with one game remaining.

UCD AFC: McGinley, Fallon, Dent, Boyle, Langtry, McNelis, Corry (Murray), McCabe (Timmons), Benson, Doyle, Belhout (King)