

UCD AFC booked their place in the CUFL final with a 2-0 win over AIT.

Colleges and Univers



2-0

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Ja

As is there wont these days UCD began the game in top gear. The Belfield students were intent on flexing their muscles and held their opponents at arms length for the majority of the game, picking them off twice in a hard fought and entertaining game. Goals from Cillian Morrison and Robbie Benson in either half were enough for UCD to secure another cup final appearance.

A strong starting line up with plenty of Airtricity League experience in the UCD ranks meant it was always going to be a difficult game for Athlone IT. AIT tried to match UCD endeavour early on and for the first fifteen minutes they looked like they could cause them problems. UCD for their part showed how comfortable they are on the ball and looked to get the ball out wide at every opportunity.

It was this activity down the wings that brought UCD their first goal. Tricky play down the wing saw a through ball fed through the Athlone defence and Cillian Morrison picked it up with plenty of work still to do. Morrison advanced on the keeper before making finishing look easy as he rolled the ball under the keeper and into the back of the net.

This goal sent the boys in blue firing on and they should have put the game well beyond doubt. Dean Clarke was the biggest culprit wasting chance after chance on what was proving to be a testing day for the UCD striker. The best of the chances came when Clarke was in a perfect position to square the ball to strike partner Robbie Benson but he wasted the opportunity.

## Two Sons Come of Age

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In the second half Athlone threw everything they had at the UCD defence but it was to come to nothing as UCD's back four stood firm. Tristan Dent and Tomas Boyle standing up to the task with some authority. UCD were in the midst of dealing with another attack when they went up to the other end of the pitch and scored the goal that would ultimately see off Athlone.

It was Robbie Benson, the Athlone native, who popped up in the AIT box to sweep home a cracking cross and send UCD into their first final of the college season.

UCD AFC: McGinley, Wright, Dent, Boyle, Butler, Belhout (O'Halloran), Murray, Molloy, Morrison, Benson, Clarke (Cannon)