

UCD came out on top against Beggsboro in the Leinster Senior League.



UCD AFC's Leinster Senior League Saturday Major 1A side made it two wins from their first three games following a convincing 2-0 win over Beggsboro in Belfield. A goal in each half from Philip Byrne and Sean Geoghegan secured all three points when in truth it could have been a much heavier defeat.

The slick surface suited UCD's style of play as UCD patiently held possession for long periods waiting for the opportunity to open up the opposition. It didn't take long for The Students to create their first few chances but with the goal at their mercy they passed up the opportunities to go ahead.

Philip Byrne was a constant thorn in the side of the Beggsboro defence as himself and Alan Sutton ran themselves into the ground to ensure the defenders never had any time on the ball. Byrne found himself one on one with the keeper but his shot flicked off the outside of the far upright. Sutton appeared to have left his shooting boots at home as his strikes never really troubled the visiting number one.

UCD took the lead when a surging run from UCD centre half, Philip Bourke, went unchallenged. He progressed deeper into the Beggsboro half before checking suddenly, leaving certain sections of the visiting defence struggling to regain their balance. Bourke then clipped a sumptuous ball over the left full back and into the path of Saheed Ogunfowora. His pace took him past the defender and his delivery was inch perfect, Philip Byrne added to his already growing reputation as a fox in the box on a Saturday afternoon with a perfectly placed header.

UCD could have extended their lead three fold before half time but a combination of poor finishing and bad luck came to Beggsboro's rescue. Byrne saw another goalbound header come back off the crossbar before Tristan Dent plucked a ball out of the air before giving it some more air as he skied his effort at the edge of the six yard box.

At the other end Beggsboro rarely threatened but when they did it was on the break and at the end of sustained UCD pressure. Two close calls resulted from a defence splitting pass that left the striker with too much to do in the end and the danger was cleared.

The second half began in much the same fashion as the first. UCD continued to dominate possession as the visitors were dragged across the field from one side to the other in search of possession. The chances continued to come for the Students and they continued to be wasted.

A triple substitution midway through the second half gave UCD more impetus and resulted in the arrival of the second goal. Craig Sargeant, Sean Geoghegan and Ryan McErlane were introduced and immediately UCD became even more confident in possession. Sargeant was strong in possession as Geoghegan and McErlane looked to spring attacks from deep.

The roles were reversed ten minutes after the arrival of Geoghegan and Sargeant however. Sargeant picked up the ball in the UCD half and turned towards goal. Looking hungry, Sargeant burst forward and fed the ball to the feet of Byrne. Byrne then found Geoghegan in space and his cool finish was enough to find the back of the net.

Beggsboro kept trying to push forward and to their credit stuck to their task. The lively striker was starved of service for the most part but when he did break free he was curtailed by the UCCD defence.

With still 10 minutes remaining in the game UCD pressed on looking for further goals. It was not to be as UCD peppered the trees behind the goal. Philip Byrne was the first to hit the foliage from outside the box and then Sean Geoghegan chose to chip the goal rather than just he keeper when it seemed easier to score.

All in all UCD produced a dominant performance, one which could have brought a greater scoreline. The win sets them up to take on Donore away in the next round of fixtures this Saturday.

UCD AFC: Barber, Molumby, Bourke, Dent, Keogh, Ogunfowora (Geoghegan), Lehane, Hanley (McErlane), Muldowney, Byrne, Sutton (Sargeant)