

UCD AFC comfortably saw off Alpine Express.



UCD AFC recorded their fifth straight league win in the Leinster Senior League Major 1A division. The convincing scoreline reflected the utter domination of proceedings by the Belfield Students but they were made to wait for their first goal as Alpine Express stood firm in the face of constant attack. In the end goals from Philip Bourke, Cormac O'Brolchain, Saheed Ogunfowora and two from Alan Sutton put the game beyond doubt.

UCD settled quickly into the game and were quick to impose their passing game on proceedings. Alpine Express were being stretched all across the field as UCD moved the ball from one side to the other seemingly at will. Alpine stayed strong at the back and made it very difficult for The Students to get a clean strike on goal.

The first half was settling into the same pattern as many of UCD's other games as chances came and went without the scoreline being troubled. David Campion was at the heart of UCD's attacks as he looked to burst forward from the space behind central striker Philip Byrne.

Campion's first chance came from a UCD corner, with extensive preparation taken care of before the game, it was time to put it into practice and Campion's bullet header towards the bottom corner seemed destined to trouble the net. The Alpine keeper had other ideas and got right down to scoop the ball away.

Nippy Campion was at it again minutes later when he broke free of his marker and advanced into the box. His right foot effort had enough power to trouble the keeper but once again a UCD chance went abegging. The half continued in this vein as UCD poured forward starting attacks from the back and moving through midfield with ease.

The first half may have been frustrating but the overriding feeling was that the break through would come if UCD kept up their standard of play. UCD started the second half shakily and seemed to lose composure at the back. This gave the visitors added impetus to get forward. One such venture broke UCD's line of defence and Eric Barber came sprinting from his goal. Sliding outside his box his hand may have prevented the ball going any further, but the referee saw it differently and Barber lived to fight another day following his close shave.

With this scare behind them The Students got back to concentrating on attacking again. The

pressure was beginning to tell as corner after corner was awarded in UCD's favour. A superb ball from Sean Geoghegan fell to the feet of Philip Bourke but his left footed effort was well saved and the ball bounced to safety.

David Molumby provided a great outlet teeming forward from right back and one of his dalliances into the box was halted abruptly by the Alpine defence. The referee pointed to the spot, Campion anointed himself penalty taker, and in time honoured Saturday football fashion, blasted the ball over the cross bar.

UCD looked most dangerous from corners and it was to be from a corner that UCD would grab the lead. Another delicious ball into the box caused pandemonium as Alpine struggled to clear. The ball fell to Cormac O'Brolchain and his cross come shot fizzed across goal towards the back post. David Campion was advised in no uncertain terms to move out of the way by Philip Bourke who had wound up his right leg seconds earlier in preparation for a strike on goal. That strike was devastating and unstoppable at the same time and UCD had a one goal advantage.

It was to be two goals minutes later. Another UCD corner fell to the feet of Campion who saw another shot fly harmlessly away from the target, this time with goalscoring consequences. Cormac O'Brolchain was loitering at the back post and he picked up the shot and drifted a ball over the keeper and into the far top corner, adding goal celebrations to his birthday celebrations.

Alan Sutton was introduced up front for the last 15 minutes of the game and had an immediate impact. Regarded by many as the finest finisher in the club, Sutton twice found himself one on one with the keeper and made no mistake.

Saheed Ogunfowora provided some substance to go with his flair when he advanced on the tiring Alpine defence. Having turned one defender inside out, he unleashed an unstoppable shot goalwards and it burst the back of the net.

UCD travel to Tallaght to take on Sacred Heart in an early season top of the table clash knowing that chances created must turn into chances taken if they are to come out on top.

UCD AFC: Barber, Molumby, P Bourke, O'Brolchain, Keogh, Lehane, J Bourke, Campion (Hanley), Geoghegan, Muldowney (Ogunfowora), Byrne (Sutton)