

UCD AFC bounced back from recent set backs to defeat Potal.



### LSL Major 1A Saturday

UCD AFC's Leinster Senior League Saturday Major 1A side sent Postal packing for the second time in three games as they ran out 2-1 winners in a closely contested game in Belfield on Saturday. Two goals from Alan Sutton gave UCD a comfortable lead but they were made to endure some nervy late second half moments as Postal United scored with five minutes to go.

Ronan Lynagh and Ryan McErlane started the game brightly for the Students as they looked to bring their wingers into play early. Kevin Dunne was the main beneficiary as he was encouraged to get forward at every opportunity. His wing play and trickery gave his opposite number early moments of panic. At the back UCD were assured as Luke Ginnell and Hugh Davey broke up attacks and looked to launch threats of their own.

As the match settled into a rhythm, UCD took the upper hand and were first to test the keeper. Philip Byrne used all his nouse to wriggle free before firing goalwards. The keeper had the measure of him and defused the shot on target. It wasn't long later that Byrne was up to his old tricks in the box and UCD had a lead. Niall Wright burst forward down the left and found Byrne

in the box. The archetypal fox in the box shaped to strike before unselfishly laying the ball to his strike partner Alan Sutton. Sutton was well placed, 4 yards out, to side foot towards goal, there was enough power in the shot to beat the keeper and UCD had a deserved lead.

Ronan Lynagh was having the time of his life in midfield, as he revelled in the space afforded to him. He was cleverly linking the midfield and forwards and this link play lead to a free kick just outside the Postal box. With confidence sky high, he had a quick chat with the referee before being told to proceed with his cheeky attempt on goal. Startling the keeper with his fleetfootedness, Lynagh unleashed a quick free kick on goal. The keeper spotted it just in time and kept the score at 1-0.

UCD continued to pile forward and nearly pushed further ahead when Hugh Davey smashed a header just past the post. With it seemingly only a matter of time before the second goal arrived, Postal ripped up the script and nealy wrote themselves back into the game. A mix up in defence lead to Postal's striker advancing on UCD's Barber, tempted to cut the striker down, Barber stayed on his feet and managed to deflect the goalbound effort to safety.

The second half saw more of the same and finally UCD had their second goal. Darren Westman emulated his hero Brian O'Driscoll as he surged forward towards the Postal bye line, he slipped the ball into the path of Kevin Dunne who smashed a ball across the face of the goal that Alan Sutton did not have to be asked twice to place into the back of the net. Two less than impressive efforts previously from outside the box contrasted greatly with Sutton's finishing inside and it is easy to see why he is fast becoming UCD's newest fox on the block.

With a two goal lead UCD began to become more defensive in their approach. Postal by contrast threw further caution to the wind and pressed for a way back into the game. UCD brought Philip Byrne deeper into midfield and formed an effective barrier against further attacks. A couple of penalty cries that may on another day have been given were waved away and UCD looked to see out the game comfortably. That was not to be as Postal attacked down the right hand side and an early ball into the box was met by a bullet header and UCD had been pegged back.

UCD held on to see out the win and make it a hat trick of wins for UCD's LSL sides in a period blighted by drop outs for exams.

**UCD AFC:** Barber, Westman, Ginnell, Davey, Wright, Dunne (Muldowney), McErlane, Lynagh, McDonald (Geoghegan), Byrne, Sutton (Sargeant)