

UCD beat Kilnamanagh 3-0 at home in the latest round of fixtures in the Leinster Senior League Major 1A Saturday.



UCD surged to the top of the Leinster Senior League Major 1A Division with a convincing 3-0 win over near rivals Kilnamanagh in Belfield. Two goals from Saturday debutant Alan Sutton and one from substitute Craig Sargeant gave the UCD Students all three points.

UCD began the game in nervous fashion, affording the opposition too much space and allowing Kilnamanagh to impose their own style of football on the game. UCD's defence has begun to tighten of late and under early pressure never looked likely to be breached as the back four combined excellently with keeper Barber to prevent the visitors from taking the lead.

Philip Bourke used all his experience veering from the sublime to the ridiculous in 5 first half minutes. Firstly, showing an impressive change of pace to thwart the latest Kilnamamagh attack with a last ditch sliding tackle and then in the next wave of attack chesting the ball instead of heading clear before flicking it over his head back to his keeper Barber, who was alert to avoid another close shave.

At the other end the UCD strike force were giving their opposition plenty to think about. The dynamic Gary O'Toole timed his run perfectly from a corner before heading just wide. Alan Sutton was next to pass up a good chance firing wide when breaking the deadlock seemed a more likely outcome. The marauding Mick O'Neill was itching to try out his shooting boots and sent a stinging effort just over the bar.

UCD seized the lead on the counter attack. Ryan McErlane was beginning to impact the game and showed his extensive range of passing when he fired a ball to the feet of Sutton, Sutton in turn found Brian O'Brolchain and he danced his way through the defence before squaring the ball to his strike partner who put UCD 1-0 up at the break.

UCD began the second half with a stronger resolve to play more attacking, attractive football but had to fend off another series of attacks before they could break into stride. A through ball pierced the UCD defence and just as it seemed the scoreline would change Paul Curtin turned on the turbo boosters and recovered position and the ball to keep UCD 1-0 to the good.

UCD pushed further ahead when Craig Sargeant burst onto the ball in midfield and cut the defence with an inch perfect ball that set Alan Sutton free. Showing composure beyond his experience at this level he tucked the ball neatly under the keeper and UCD were two goals to the good.

UCD continued to push forward with Gary O'Toole pivotal in the midfield, supported by his willing lieutenants Glancy and McErlane as UCD looked to kill the game off moving to three in midfield. With hurricane Tomas creating havoc across Dublin during the week, many games were cancelled due to inclement weather. His impact was less obvious in Belfield until Gary O'Toole showed a change of pace that brought him into the box. Seemingly ready to increase the lead O'Toole was felled by the sudden arrival of Tomas, the referee waved play on.

Craig Sargeant, UCD's own force of nature, got his name on the score sheet not long after. Paul Curtin whipped a ball into the box and Sargeant directed the ball past the helpless keeper with a bullet header.

UCD were cruising and finished the game comfortably with Barber making a last minute save to ensure UCD kept their third clean sheet in a row and registered another 3 points.