

UCD AFC were beaten 4-1 by Malahide United in the latest round of fixtures in the Leinster Senior League Major 1A.



UCD AFC's Leinster Senior League Saturday Major 1A team went down 4-1 in an extraordinary game in Belfield on Saturday afternoon. It was the 3rd straight defeat in the league for the Students as their grip on second place begins to slide.

UCD began the game brightly and were unfortunate not to go ahead when Mick O'Neill's header was blocked as it looked to be heading goalwards. Michael Whelan was making inroads down the right hand side and UCD continued to create chances as the first half began to open up.

The Students were hit with a bolt from the blue as a left foot rocket from the Malahide United

winger flew past the stranded Barber in the UCD goal and UCD found themselves 1-0 down.

UCD began to regain their form and started to exert further pressure on the visitors defence and eventually got the breakthrough that looked certain to bring UCD level. Brian O'Brolchain was taken down in the box and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Gary O'Toole saw his effort expertly saved and Malahide took their lead to the break.

The second half started with Malahide again in the ascendancy pushing forward to increase their lead. This lead to the inevitable openings in the backline and UCD tried to make the most of every opportunity. Michael Whelan found himself in the box and ready to shoot on one such occasion when he was tugged back by the desperate defender and again the referee pointed to the penalty spot. This time Philip Byrne was the unfortunate UCD player charged with taking the kick and his effort ballooned over the bar.

UCD then conceded two goals in quick succession from long throw ins and the game was as good as over at 3-0. Tyrone McNelis broke the defensive line again to poke the ball past the Malahide keeper but Malahide went on to make the game safe with a fourth goal leaving UCD's title push in doubt.

UCD:Barber, O'Neil (Condon), C O'Brolchain, Davey, Curtin, Whelan, O'Toole, McErlane (McNelis), Daly, Byrne (Sargeant), B O'Brolchain