

UCD AFC and Newtown Rangers played out an entertaining 3-3 draw in LSL Sunday.



Su

UCD played out an entertaining 3-3 draw in atrocious conditions in the Leinster Senior League Senior 1 Sunday division. Goals from James Timmons, Eoin Roche and an own goal meant the points were shared as Newtown Rangers equaled UCD's scoring prowess.

On a difficult pitch UCD gained the upper hand early on and raced into an early lead. Kieran Harte added fuel to the rumours he has taken up ballet, as he danced past a number of players before slipping a ball behind the defence and into the path of Tyrone McNelis. McNelis played a ball across the face of the goal and James Timmons couldn't miss from 8 yards.

McNelis was the focal point for all of UCD's attacks and continued to cause trouble on the right hand side of midfield. Time and again the ball behind the full back found McNelis in full flight. His speed lead to UCD's second goal. Another clever ball into his path found him in acres of space. Eoin Roche was lurking at the far post dying to score. McNelis made it happen with a perfect ball to the back post where Roche guided a clever header over the keeper and into the back of the net.

The conditions began to get to UCD and they started to look more feeble under attack. Almost from the restart they conceded their first goal of the afternoon. A pin point ball into the box was finished expertly by the opposing winger and UCD saw their lead reduced.

UCD did not let this effect them and concentrated on getting the ball to McNelis at every opportunity. Again he eluded his marker and found himself advancing on goal. McNelis looked to play a UCD player into a goalscoring opportunity but all he found was a defender. Luckily for UCD the defender was the obliging kind and placed the ball into his own net.

UCD looked to be in a perfect position to press home their advantage and put the game out of sight. The home side had other ideas however. After a poor clearance the UCD defence was scrambling to re organise and their attempts failed as Brian O'Reilly was forced to bring down the home striker in the box. The penalty was dispatched and UCD again saw their lead reduced.

UCD could not get a grip of the game and conceded possession almost as readily as they had controlled it earlier in the game. With not long left in the first half UCD conceded a corner. Newtown's central striker rose highest in the box and headed past McGroarty from 4 yards.

The second half began with UCD and Newtown's attempts to play attractive football almost completely nullified by the worsening conditions. Brian O'Brolchain turned his defender and unleashed an almost unstoppable shot towards the top corner, almost unstoppable, as the keeper somehow managed to get a hand to it and diverted the ball away from goal.

O'Brolchain could have had a goal later in the half but McNelis decided to mix it up a bit. In the first half bearing down on goal he would have squared the pass to a player in a better position. Not on this occasion as he shot for goal and it was blocked.

A pulsating affair ended 3-3 with both teams doing their utmost to better the conditions.

UCD AFC: McGroarty, O'Reilly, Doyle, Dillon, Davey, McNelis, Harte, Timmons (Lynagh), Michael Whelan, Roche (Curtin), O'Brolchain (Campion)