

UCD went out of the FAI Cup in agonising fashion, losing 2-1 to Arklow in the UCD Bowl this afternoon. Arklow, two divisions above UCD, were a stronger side physically, but UCD created some good chances, with Marc Whelan denied by an excellent tackle ten yards out. Kevin Farrell broke the deadlock for Arklow, heading home a corner at the near post. It was the difference between the teams - UCD creating more chances, but Arklow were always more confident with theirs. The game swung on 35 minutes when Arklow's keeper was sent off for a handball outside the box. He protested strongly, but ultimately uselessly, and with no sub keeper, Arklow put former UCD forward Willie Doyle in nets - a double boost for the College, as Doyle's forward play had been very composed. The free was smacked off the wall and away. By this stage, UCD had created three or four excellent openings, but failed to take any, and yet the sending off saw Arklow regroup and deny UCD too many chances for the rest of the game. However, UCD did finally equalise with their only real shot on target in the remainder of the game - Niall Daly scoring just past the hour with a shot across the face of Doyle and into the far corner. It looked like that was the confidence boost UCD needed to go on and win the game, but disaster struck just two minutes later - sub Peter Finnegan found himself free on the left, his marker slipped, giving Finnegan space to shoot; his 20-yard effort was deflected up and over UCD keeper Seán Coffey into the roof of the net. UCD pressed to no avail after that, and Arklow had chances to put the game beyond doubt. In injury time, Coffey nearly scored a sensational equaliser, when a corner came out to him, and he sent a 20-yard drive inches wide. It was the last chance in a game with five minutes' injury time in each half, but it's Arklow's name that deservedly goes into Monday night's Third Round draw. What odds they draw UCD away again? UCD - Coffey; Burke, Lehane (Campion 75), Bray, Doyle; Whelan, Lynagh, O'Sullivan (Doherty 75), Daly; O'Connor, Schutz. Subs not used - Bourke, Curtin, Geoghegan, McGroarty