

UCD AFC 3-1 Dublin University - Liam Dodd Cup 1st Round



Saturday Premier

In a match that could be looked on as a trial run for the upcoming Colour's Match against Trinity that will take place sometime after Christmas, UCD battled it out against their biggest rivals in the opening round of the Liam Dodd Cup. It also gave many of the UCD team their first taste of what college football really is, with the team comprised of mainly freshers.

Dublin University started the brighter and kept some good possession however UCD looked more dangerous going forward and the more likely to score in the opening exchanges. Their first real chance came from a great ball in from the right wing to the unmarked Rory Giles at the back post whose header looked destined for the far corner only for a great reaction save from

the goalkeeper.

In what was an exciting end to end game UCD found their break through when Rory Giles started at the half way line with a mazing run beating two players down the line before turning inside and cutting the ball back to Marcus Byrne who finished brilliantly into the top corner from twelve yards out.

Dublin University then looked to hit back immediately and did when the ball broke to their forward on the edge of the box and he finished it off very well past the outstretched Oisín Geoghegan.

The second half started just as the first half did with UCD creating the better of the chances and found the breakthrough again when Mark Purcell broken down the line and was taken down inside the box by the Dublin University defender. To make things worse the defender was sent off for a second yellow card after he had earlier taken Brian Reilly down with a bad tackle. Brian Reilly stepped up and put it in the bottom corner to score his second penalty in as many games.

The result was put beyond doubt when Rory Giles finished into the bottom corner after a good move.

UCD held firm and saw out the victory over their fierce rivals with a 3-1 win. There were particularly impressive performances from Adam Muldowney in the middle and the centre back pairing of Declan Keaney and Stephen Moran who dealt comfortably with everything Trinity could throw at them particularly in the air.

The win puts UCD into the next round of the cup and maintains their hopes of completing a League and Cup double even at this very early stage. They will be back to league action next weekend where they will look to continue their magnificent start.

UCD Team: Geoghegan, Brett, Keaney, Moran, Abdelwahab (McAuliffe), Purcell (Hartman), Keohane, Dunne, Giles, Byrne (Muldowney), Reilly.