

UCD AFC lost out to St Ita's in the Semi Final of the Liam Dodd Cup.



UCD AFC's dream of lifting the Liam Dodd Cup ended on Saturday afternoon following a 3-1 defeat to St Ita's. UCD took the lead following a Stiofain Sexton penalty but 3 goals from the visitors put the Students out of the competition at the semi final stage.

The game began brightly for the Boys in Blue as the sun shone. The Foster Avenue pitch suited UCD's passing style and even without regulars Dent, Wright and Muldowney they threatened from the start.

Stiofain Sexton was causing problems from the off and St Ita's defence struggled to keep him under control. Sexton's quick feet brought him past the last defender and a sloppy challenge later and UCD had a penalty. Sexton scored it himself and UCD had a deserved lead.

Three quick goals before half time put UCD's cup dream in danger. A delicate ball over the top

cleared the UCD defence and the lightening quick winger burst onto the ball and finished well past Finnegan.

A mistake from UCD's defence left a back pass short and the same player did not have to be asked twice to beat Finnegan again.

UCD have not lost many games this season and they looked certain to lose this one even before half time. A long ball over the top found St Ita's lively winger and he finished smartly to put UCD 3-1 down at the break.

The second half saw the Students move to a more attacking formation and it threatened to pay dividends. Culleton in UCD's midfield was the driving force but St Ita's stood firm. UCD were nearly caught on the break on a number of occasions but John Finnegan kept his team in with a small chance of a come back. Alas it wasn't to be and UCD bow out of the Liam Dodd Cup.

UCD AFC: Finnegan, Mollumby, Keogh, Rogers, O'Huigin (Matterson), Culleton, O'Brien (Ferrara), Hanley, Dunne, Sexton, Sutton (Connolly)