

UCD AFC won for the 5th time in a row.

Leinster Senior League Saturday Premier



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Saturday 11th January 2014

UCD AFC's Premier Saturday side picked up another important three points in the race for promotion, putting Confey to the sword in the process. In a tight game that became increasingly fraught as it progressed, UCD held their nerve to claim the spoils thanks to a goal from Colin Jones. It was UCD's fifth straight victory and one which owed as much to the pure grit and determination to play the game in the right way as much as any skill possessed.

As is so often the case UCD began the game on the front foot and immediately pushed their opposition back. Playing the ball out from defence has long been the Student's way and this side is no different. Veteran defender, Jack Doyle, regaled his younger team mates of headier days when he was thrice on the score sheet, and his stature grew as he delivered a faultless defensive performance. Majestic bringing the ball out of defence and like a lion in the tackle, his defensive mates grabbed leaves from his book as they matched his effort move for move.

This sturdy base from which UCD grew was thanks in no small part to the athleticism of keeper Oisin Geoghegan. Putting pay to the myth that Geoghegan's are incapable of jumping, the youngest of the clan flew through the air on numerous occasions to claim balls that appeared to be well out of his reach and allow his defence some breathing space. It also made the Confey attack think twice about venturing into the UCD penalty area.

With the rearguard performing like a well oiled machine, it was time for the midfield to kick into action and kick in they did. Rory Giles and Stephen McAuliffe tormented their opposite numbers from start to finish and it was McAuliffe who was heavily involved in the goal. His clever interchange with Declan Keaney sent the full back scampering down the line. Keaney deliver a sumptuous ball into the box which beguiled the defenders and lead to an almighty scramble.

The like of which has not been seen since Jack Doyle called "gushie" in the playground in 1974.

Like the hungry kid with lightening quick reactions, Colin Jones squeezed through the melee and grabbed what he believed was rightfully his. He poked the ball into the back of the net and claimed the opening goal of the game.

Mark Boland and Hamza Suleiman played like men possessed. Full to the brim with a desire to inflict further pain on the opposing defence. Boland peppered the goal with shot after shot and was unlucky not to extend UCD's lead while Suleiman's energy was boundless, knowing no bounds, quite literally as one tight crotched Sky Sports pundit might exclaim.

If the first half was a beauty the second was a beast as Congfey gave up trying to match UCD's pace, skill and undoubted flair and instead went about attempting to collect limbs as souvenirs from their trip to Belfield. The referee flashed so many yellow cards in quick succession he was in danger of confusing airplanes attempting to land in Dublin airport.

As the away side pressed for an equaliser, UCD sought to exploit the gaps left behind. Barry Nolan was introduced to do just that and on a number of occasions he almost did. The best chance of the second half fell to the impressive McAuliffe who skied a half volley when a goal seemed the likelier outcome.

It mattered little come the final whistle as UCD hung on for the three points in the face of a fearsome onslaught.

UCD AFC: Oisín Geoghegan, Stephen Moran, Jack Doyle, Paddy Brett (Cullen), Declan Keaney, Hamza Suleiman, Rob Murray, Rory Giles (David), Stephen McAuliffe, Mark Boland, Colin Jones (Nolan)