

David Campion and Paul Curtin secured all three points for UCD's LSL Major 1A side.



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UCD AFC put further pressure on the teams at the top of the Leinster Senior League Saturday Major 1 A Division with a 2-1 win over Donore FC. A stunning first half performance provided the two goals that were enough to see off their opponents. David Campion and Paul Curtin produced the clinical finishes required to give the Students all three points.

UCD began the game in confident fashion as they passed the ball out from the back and looked to pierce the home defence at every opportunity. Jack Lehane and David Campion looked to get the ball from the back four and spring forward, allowing Sean Geoghegan and Ronan Lynagh the licence to get forward in search of goals.

The chances came thick and fast but UCD did not take any of them. Ronan Lynagh, Paul Curtin and Philip Byrne were the main culprits. UCD did not become disheartened however and continued to stay true to their principles of attractive attacking football. It eventually paid off when Campion found himself in the clear and he finished coolly. The ball was won in the middle of the park and Sean Geoghegan fed Philip Byrne who then found Campion in the clear with a delicious ball that Campion could not help but gobble up with glee.

UCD's lead should have been extended further in the first half but with frustration reaching dangerously high levels on the side line, The Students continued to probe. The second goal was a thing of simplistic beauty. Philip Bourke brought the ball out from defence and as the Donore defence backed off he spotted a clever run from the ever willing Paul Curtin. The pas Bourke produced sliced the defence like a hot knife through lukewarm butter and Curtin found himself clear of the defence. With the memory of his two previous guilt edged misses playing on his mind he calmly placed the ball against the keeper's legs and let the custodian do the rest. He did, and UCD had a two goal half time lead.

As so often happens with UCD's LSL Saturday side the second half did not live up to the first half's flowing football. From the tip off UCD gave the ball away and this habit grabbed hold throughout the team for the remainder of the game as UCD struggled to finish their opponents. Donore brought themselves back into the game five minutes into the second half.

A long ball into the box was dealt with initially but when it fell to the edge of the box the first player to react was a Donore midfielder. His sweet volley beat the cluster of players in front of him and nestled in the back of the net.

UCD, though not playing brilliantly, still created chances to see off the game. Again it was a case of the final product not being up to standard. The best chance of the half came to Canadian import Michael Arlold who saw his thumping header come back off the crossbar.

At the back UCD stayed strong and dealt with everything Donore threw at them. A ten minute spell was peppered with corners that The Students were required to deal with. Eric Barber in goal was commanding and UCD cleared their lines time and again.

Just before the final whistle Donore were reduced to ten men as the referee reacted with red to dissent in the Donore camp. UCD take on Alpine Express at home in their next game in the LSL.

UCD AFC: Barber, Molumby, Dent, Bourke, Keogh, Lehane, Campion (Hanley), Lynagh, Geoghegan (Muldowney), Byrne (Arlold), Curtin