

UCD AFC returned to winning ways in the Leinster Senior League Saturday Premier Division.



UCD AFC took on Oldchurch United in the Leinster Senior League Saturday Premier Division. With two defeats in their last two outings, the Students were looking to get back to winning ways. UCD did that and more as they comfortably swept aside Oldchurch scoring four unanswered goals. Mark Boland scored twice and Brian McDonald and Ross Beirne added another two to give UCD a comfortable victory.

The game was played in extremely cold conditions with a strong wind making it difficult for The Students to settle into any sort of attacking rhythm. They controlled possession from the first whistle but could not break down the stubborn home defence. The best chance of the half, however, fell to Oldchurch as they hit the post with from a free kick.

With the sides locked level going into the second half the game was there for either side to take advantage. With Oldchurch pressing forward UCD caught them on the break. Brian McDonald found himself in a good position in front of goal and clipped a ball over the keeper, as it drifted wide of goal Mark Boland arrived right on cue to slot the ball home. McDonald will claim an

assist as his cross/shot was open to interpretation, either way it gave UCD a lead goal.

The opening goal sparked Oldchurch into life and the UCD defence began to find themselves under more pressure. Bill Phelan in the UCD goal pulled off a number of fine saves to preserve UCD's lead. It looked as if UCD were going to hold onto their slender lead as the game wore on but this young side had other ideas.

Mark Boland and Brian McDonald were determined to make a further impact on the scoring and they combined to give UCD a two goal lead with the clock ticking closer to full time. A square ball from Boland found McDonald on the edge of the box and he smashed the ball past the keeper. Boland then got in on the act again when he curled a ball past the keeper and into the back of the net to make it 3-0.

Second half substitute Ross Beirne was introduced and he had an immediate effect to place the cherry on top of the well iced cake. Another strike from outside the area nestled in the back of the net and UCD were back to winning ways.

UCD AFC: Phelan, Carr, Ginnell, Cullen, Naughton, Giles (Vermeulen), O'Brien, Weir (McLaughlin), O'Huiginn, McDonald, Boland (Beirne)