

UCD smashed 4 unanswered goals past Dublin Bus on Saturday.

Leinster Senior League Saturday M



4-0



Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

It was a case of deja vu on Saturday as The Students put another team to the sword. This time it was Dublin Bus who dipped into another form of transport as they shipped four goals. Niall Hanley opened the scoring, then doubled the lead shortly afterwards. Not to be outdone as the Niall Hanley show threatened to get out of hand, Mike Arnold snapped up two goals either side of half time to ensure a comfortable win.

The game got off to a flyer as UCD burst out of the blocks. With their smooth passing and great movement it was difficult to see anything other than a UCD victory straight from the first whistle. With UCD employing a high line the visitors were struggling to maintain possession and were being forced back at every opportunity. On one such occasion, Niall Hanley robbed possession from a clearly asleep right full back and took prompt advantage. Hanley advanced on the keeper and finished calmly to give UCD a one nil lead after four minutes.

One became two within seconds of the restart as the Dublin Bus drivers clearly tried to start their attacking vehicle in neutral and stalled, gifting possession to UCD. This pressure led to a corner from which Feeney whipped an unstoppable ball into the box and there was the most athletic beanpole on hand to fire the ball goalwards as Hanley marked his second.

With a positive start behind them, UCD suffered a blow as John Naughton was forced to leave the field with an injury. Into the fray came a gladiator any LSL manager would like to introduce to his starting line up as David Molumby took to the field. After a defensive re organisation The Students slipped seamlessly into gear once more. Dublin Bus by this stage had mastered the art of passing from the back but were falling short when faced with the defensive wall of steel

Neal Hickey and his cohorts erected.

With their tails and defences up, UCD began to let their concentration slip and with that Bus found their way back into the game, but still could not breach what was fast becoming a masterpiece in the art of recovery defending. With the clock ticking towards the half hour mark, Mike Arnold decided to put his own case forward for a tilt at a hat trick. He started by picking up the ball 30 yards out, shifting it delicately to his left foot before unleashing an unstoppable effort that arrowed into the bottom right hand corner of the visiting keeper's goal.

It was four nil before all watching had the chance to blink. Danny Fallon, who rumour has it exited a motivational chat with Molumby seconds before kick off, was in exceptional form. His ability to win possession and launch attack after attack is unparalleled in the modern LSL game, and it was this ability that set up UCD's fourth goal. He confidently played the ball to the feet of the equally lythe Neal Hickey, setting the spark on his wand of a left foot he drifted a perfect ball in behind the Dublin Bus defence to find Mike Arnold once more. Arnold eluded the Gargoyle like statues masquerading as defenders, controlled the ball, side stepped the keeper and placed the spherical object into the fisherman's tool.

If this was a round up on BBC's MOTD2 the second half would not appear, and so the same shall be the case here as neither side seemed capable of impacting the scoreline further in the second stanza. This victory fired the Boys in Blue into second place in the Saturday Major division.

**UCD AFC:** 1. Corbett, 2. Hickey, 3. Naughton (Molumby), 4. Breen, 5. Keogh, 6. Murray, 7. Crean, 8. Fallon, 9. Arnold, 10. Hanley (Keohane), 11. Feeney (O'Reilly).

**Subs:** Kelly, Boland, Hamza, Doyle.