

UCD Drew 1-1 with Leixlip in the latest round of fixtures in the Leinster Senior League Saturday Major 1A.



UCD AFC took on Leixlip in the Leinster Senior League Saturday Senior 1A Division in Belfield and went away with a point following an improved performance on recent weeks. The Students were looking to avoid a 4th successive defeat in the league and laid the foundations to turn their season around with a 1-1 draw.

UCD began the game at an extremely high tempo and were not prepared to let their opposition settle on the ball. Gary O'Toole and Ryan McErlane dominated the centre of midfield in the early exchanges allowing Michael Whelan and Colm Daly to press forward at every opportunity. The shortage of confidence that comes with losing 3 games in a row was evident as UCD created good chances but could not put the ball in the back of the net early in the half.

Brian O'Brolchain and Philip Byrne put the visiting defence under immense pressure allowing their team mates to influence the game more. Half chances dominated the opening exchanges with Mark Condon, on for the injured Michael O'Neill, firing over from a corner when a goal seemed a certainty.

Condon made up for his wastefulness minutes later collecting an inventive pass from Philip Bourke. A long punt from the opposition keeper was controlled and passed in one fluid motion via the centre half's chest and set UCD in motion. Condon moved the ball down the flank to Philip Byrne who sent the ball across the box to the back post where Colm Daly was waiting to bullet a header past the helpless keeper.

UCD held their lead into the second half and looked to growing in confidence when they were hit by a sucker punch. A short free kick was rolled to an advancing striker who smashed the ball through a crowd and past Barber in the UCD goal.

Leixlip dropped deeper as the expected UCD onslaught came and they appeared content to hit the Students on the break. The pace of the UCD backline ensured any danger was quickly dealt with.

UCD continued to create chances but the cutting edge was missing as Leixlip counted their blessings. A late Hugh Davey corner almost drew a winning goal but again there was no one in UCD colours placed to take full advantage.

UCD: Barber, O'Neill (Condon), Bourke, Davey, Curtin, Whelan, O'Toole (Sutton), McErlane, Daly, Byrne, O'Brolchain