

UCD AFC beat CYM Terenure 4-1 in the Tom Carroll Leinster Senior League Cup.



The Tom Carroll Cup came as a welcome distraction to UCD AFC's Leinster Senior League Saturday Major 1A side. It was an opportunity to put the poor league form to one side and concentrate on adding some silverware to the trophy cabinet. CYM Terenure were the visitors to Belfield and 90 minutes later UCD had advanced to the next round.

UCD began the game in confident fashion, the free flowing football was back and the confidence was beginning to grow. Darragh Connolly and Mark O'Callaghan were providing the width that allowed Philip Byrne and Brian O'Brolchain to take advantage of the space created.

Darragh Connolly put the Students on their way. Ryan McErlane played a ball to Connolly, who used his first touch to spray the ball across to Mark O'callaghan. O'Callaghan drew his defender before slipping a ball into the path of the advancing Philip Byrne. Byrne's inch perfect cross was diverted expertly past the keeper by Connolly.

UCD began to get on top with both full backs in impressive form. The left winger and striker for Terenure were led on a merry dance on several occasions as Philip Bourke decided Saturday afternoon was the best time to give a master class in the Cruyff turn. One such rampage into the box ended with a turn that sent the majority of the CYM team plus several members of the bench in the opposite direction, only for the ball to elude him and the chance was gone.

UCD went two up thanks to the irrepressible Philip Byrne. The close friendship that has developed off the field between Byrne and Connolly was there for all to see as Connolly repaid the favour of Byrne's earlier assist. Connolly's flick header landed the ball at Byrne's feet and he finished coolly past the visiting keeper.

UCD were in full control and looked to be in a great position to finish the game before half time. As always with the Major 1A side, things were not that simple and just before half time UCD looked to have let CYM back into the game. A long ball from the keeper was flicked on and the striker beat Ritchie Kelly to the ball and scored. Kelly received a yellow card for his part in the collision that led to the striker leaving the field injured.

UCD made a quick start to the second half and scored to push themselves further in front of their opposition. Another Connolly cross eluded everyone and Mark O'Callaghan arrived right on cue to slide the ball into the empty net to cap an impressive performance.

A change of formation put three strikers up front in an attempt to close out the game. Sean Buckley and Colm Daly came into the fray and both were instrumental in creating two of the biggest talking points of the game. Firstly, Colm Daly raced down the left hand side and produced a wondrous ball into the box that Brian O'Brolchain met on the volley and left the keeper with no chance.

Sean Buckley was eager to get himself on the scoresheet and found himself in the perfect position not long before the 90 minutes was up. Closer to the goal line than the six yard line, Buckley was presented with the perfect opportunity to smash the ball into the net. He decided to try something different and succeeded in lifting the ball over the bar from 3 yards. One can only imagine that was what he was trying to do, it was easier to score!

UCD AFC: Kelly, Bourke, C O'Brolchain, Doyle, Curtin, O'Callaghan, McErlane (Lehane), Glancy, Connolly (Daly), Byrne (Buckley), B O'Brolchain