

UCD AFC were crowned champions as they secured the point they needed to win the league.



Going into the final round of fixtures in the Leinster Senior League Senior 1A division UCD AFC needed a point to win the league. With promotion secured two weeks ago it, 90 minutes and Confey stood in The Students' way. With the run in to the end of the season testing the strength in depth of the squad it remained to be seen whether this group of players could make one last push towards league glory.

UCD showed the nerves that were to be expected with such a prize on offer and started the game in uncharacteristic fashion. The normally slick passing was not on show and Confey were tearing through UCD's midfield almost at will. When UCD did have the ball they presented it back to the home team as if caught up with some kind of late festive spirit.

One player who was not prepared to play Father Christmas was UCD's custodian, Sean Coffey. He was alive, alert and ready as Confey's midfield dropped a ball over the UCD defence and the striker controlled it first time before getting his shot away. Coffey sprung to his left and stopped a certain goal before pouncing on the rebound.

This was the wake up call UCD needed. A quick formation change saw the Students adopt 4-4-2 and fluidity began to creep back into their game. Brian O'Reilly and Marc Whelan combined to win a corner for UCD. Whelan's ball into the box was met by Niall Daly who's burst of pace left his marker for dead. Daly's glancing header skimmed the crossbar on the way over and both side's were even on clear cut chances.

Stiofain Sexton was next to attempt to push UCD over the line. A fine through ball from Niall Daly found the youngster in with a scoring opportunity but the recovering centre halves arrived right on cue to block his effort.

The second half was as even as the first. UCD began to improve the distribution from the back. Steve Dillon and Cormac O'Brolchain were giving their midfield every opportunity to move forward with more accurate delivery. John Bourke appeared to have borrowed the absent Hugh Davey's "wand" as his left footed delivery to Niall Daly was inch perfect every time. UCD were motoring and midway into the second half it looked as though the deadlock would be broken.

Marc Whelan was only starting secondary school when James Timmons was taking his first steps with UCD, back in the '90's, but those steps quickened considerably as Timmons broke into the box. Whelan's through ball found the onrushing Timmons who feinted deftly to leave several defenders on the floor before expertly getting his shot off. The keeper blocked the effort and Sexton's follow up was cleared.



UCD brought fresh players from the bench as Sexton was replaced by Brian O'Brolchain and Paul Curtin came on for Michael Whelan. Curtin took every opportunity to get on the ball and terrorise his opposing full back and deliver accurate balls into the box. On a couple of occasions these crosses looked certain to bring UCD the lead but last minute interventions meant they came to nothing.



UCD AFC Confey-dent Champions!

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The game ended with UCD holding the ball in the corner as a point was enough to send UCD up a division as champions. The sound of the referees whistle brought to an end an incredible league season. Having been promoted the previous year, a stunning run in to the end of the league gave UCD the victory they thoroughly deserved. The Students plundered 49 points from a possible 54, 60 goals and 14 clean sheets in 26 games, 3 points dropped at home all season and the highest points total of any of the Senior LSL divisions.

They say the hips don't lie, either do the numbers as UCD are crowned deserving champions of Leinster Senior League Sunday Senior 1A.

UCD AFC: Coffey, O'Reilly, Dilllon, C O'Brolchain, Bourke, Marc Whelan, Timmons, Lynagh, Michael Whelan (Curtin), Sexton (B O'Brolchain), Daly