

UCD AFC put their first points on the board with a convincing win over Celbridge Town.



Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

With no points on the board after the first two games in the Leinster Senior League Senior 1 Sunday Division, UCD AFC travelled to Celbridge Town in the hope of getting off the mark. Following promotion last season and defeats to Malahide United and Sacred Heart in the opening two games UCD put on an impressive performance to bag their first three points. Goals from Eoin Roche, Marc Whelan and Michael Whelan saw The Students to a comfortable 3-0 win.

The game started brightly as UCD took the game to their hosts. Niall Daly and Tyrone McNelis gave the opposition back four a torrid time from the off and with Sean Buckley bursting forward from midfield it was clear that Celbridge were in for a difficult day. It was Sean Buckley who put in the hard graft as he broke free on the right hand side, raising his head he spotted Eoin Roche moving into position at the back post. Buckley found Roche with an incredible ball and Roche finished exquisitely to put the Students one goal to the good.

UCD began to dominate the game as Jack Doyle and Steve Dillon mopped up everything at the back and provided a platform from which to move forward. Marc Whelan had a wonderful opportunity to open his goalscoring account for the year but he was thwarted by an incredible diving save. That the acrobatics belonged to the opposition full back rather than the keeper infuriated UCD's fiery winger. How the referee did not spot the blatant hand ball was the question being asked by Whelan. Reports his protests could be heard back in Belfield were probably very accurate.

Whelan would get his goal just after half time. A superb ball slipped through the defence by Tyrone McNelis found the worked up College winger and Whelan's finish left Celbridge's nominated keeper with no chance. Steve Dillon had been dominating in the air all day and this dominance nearly brought a third goal. A pin point cross from Marc Whelan found Dillon in the box but his header flashed over the bar.

The game began to run out of steam as Celbridge became frustrated at the lack of opportunities to break down their visitors. Michael Whelan came off the bench to replace Niall Daly and he made an immediate impact. Marc Whelan picked up possession and chipped a ball over the Celbridge defence. Michael Whelan brushed off the attentions of the closest defender before slipping the ball under the on rushing keeper to give UCD a 3-0 win.

**UCD AFC:** McGroarty, O'Reilly, Dillon, Doyle, Davey, Roche (Geoghegan), Harte, Buckley, Marc Whelan, Daly (Michael Whelan), McNelis (Sexton)