

UCD AFC travelled to Ramelton to take on Swilly Rovers in the Intermediate Cup.

Interm



Sunda

UCD took their free flowing brand of football to Donegal last Sunday afternoon and on a pitch not conducive to good football they created a near masterpiece, knocking the hosts for six in the process. Marc Whelan opened the scoring before Hugh Davey smashed in two stunning free kicks and James Timmons, Timy Molloy and Ronan Lynagh added sumptuous efforts of their own. Swilly, to their credit stuck to their task and did manage to pull back a goal but it was well and truly a consolation as the Students passed safely into the next round.

The game started brightly for UCD as they ignored the home surface's frailties and played an expansive, passing game they have become know for. Good teams can adapt their style of play at the drop of a hat and it was a change towards a more old fashioned route one approach that broke the deadlock. Never one to shy away from shaving the legs off passing seagulls with his clearances, Sean Coffey delivered one high and long, dropping towards the head of Conor Cannon. Cannon made a mockery of his second name, creating something so deft and accurate it could not possibly have come from a medieval instrument of war. In fact, it was closer to picture perfect, whatever its origins, it resulted in a flick on that sent Marc Whelan tearing through as if a free protein shake awaited the winner of the foot race. Whelan was well clear of the defence before advancing on the keeper, his original shot was saved by the wiley veteran poked the rebound home and UCD had a deserved lead.

Swilly saw their luck go from bad to worse when their keeper had to go off injured after making a fine save. UCD were in no mood to hang around and offer sympathies however. Soon after they won a free kick on the edge of the home penalty area and up stepped a father figure in more ways than one in the sheep of Hugh Davey. He dipped his left leg in a potion of magic and produced a strike on wondrous beauty, arrowing into the bottom corner and giving the

replacement keeper no chance.

At half time the score was 2-0 to UCD and things began to get better not long into the second half. A flurry of goals marked the second half as first Michael Whelan showed sublime confidence to guide the ball into the back of the net from outside the box. Then another free kick awarded to UCD saw Hugh Davey once again step up with the same result. This time he stuck the ball in the top corner and UCD grabbed a 4 goal lead.

Swilly Rovers pulled a goal back following a scramble in the UCD box. UCD reasserted their dominance when newly crowned father, James Timmons, popped up at the back post and smashed a sublime volley into the back of the net. He then wheeled off in celebration re-enacting Bebeto's famous ode to his newborn at the 1994 world cup, the very year most of Timmons' team mates were born. Ronan Lynagh then capped off a successful trip into the wilds of Donegal with a sublime chip, that may have been aided by a deflection. Either way, UCD scored six and won the game comfortably to throw their name into the hat for the next round.

**UCD AFC:**☐ Coffee, Reiley, Wright, Davey, Dent, Timmons (Hanley), Marc Whelan (Lynagh), Moran, Cannon, Molloy (McErlane), Michael Whelan