

Tolka Rovers 0 - 3 UCD (Timmy Molloy, Conor Cannon, Robbie Murray)



In what was billed a crunch match in the relegation battle in the LSL Senior Sunday division, Timmy Molloy broke the deadlock before second half goals from Conor Cannon and Robbie Murray helped UCD to a vital three points.

Manager Diarmuid McNally rang the changes before the game with Dermot O'Kelly and James Shiggins both coming in for their first starts of the season at this level, while Derek Swan, Robbie Murray and Stephen Doughan all also came into the team.

After taking just six points from their opening twelve games, Tolka Rovers have turned it around since Christmas and entered the game in a rich vein of form. Undefeated in seven with five wins and two draws since Christmas they seem to have resurrected their season, as they look to fight relegation and would have been pre-match favourites for many.

Tolka started the brighter and after some good work down the left wing, UCD were lucky not to go behind as Kieran Bowers attempted clearance came back off the post.

That chance however seemed to spur the students into life as Derek Swan beat his man down

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the right before picking out James Shiggins at the back post, however his header just went wide of the target.

UCD then looked to turn on the style and a quick break saw Stephen Doughan switch it quickly to Derek Swan who played it inside to Timmy Molloy who beat two men before sliding Conor Cannon through however the Tolka keeper did well to save at his feet.

The opener was to come from another quick break as Conor Cannon picked the ball up at the half way line before beating his man and then cutting back inside to pick out the unmarked Timmy Molloy to tab it home from six yards out.

Tolka then looked to hit back straight away as they broke down the right and after a good ball across, Sean Coffey did well to hold the first time volley from the edge of the area.

James Shiggins nearly doubled our lead moments later after Stephen Doughan broke into the box before cutting the ball back to Shiggins however a brilliant save from Philip O'Connor in the Tolka net kept us from extending our advantage.

Tolka looked to get back on top coming up to half time as they pushed for an equaliser, and Sean Coffey spread himself brilliantly to save at the feet of the Tolka striker after he broke through the defence.

The UCD rear guard saw out the remaining moments of the half to take a 1-0 lead into the break.

Just after the break Stephen Doughan looked to try his luck from distance after being set up by Conor Cannon only for his shot to just clip the top of the bar.

The UCD defence led by the experienced pairing of Hugh Davey and Tristan Dent were standing strong and limiting Tolka to shooting from distance.

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Derek Swan looked to have picked out Conor Cannon with a brilliant cross only for the Tolka defender to knick ahead of him go put it out for a corner. Moments later, Cannon looked to extend our lead as he was played through by Timmy Molloy only for the Tolka keeper to close the angle well and make a good save.

We did extend our lead soon after however as Derek Swans corner picked out Conor Cannon unmarked in the area and he finished it into the far corner with the thumping diving header.

Kieran Bower's then looked to get in on the action as his right footed effort from 30 yards looked to have found the far top corner only for a finger tip save from Philip O'Connor to put it over.

As the game wore on Tolka pushed for the goal to bring them back into the game and looked to have done so as a well worked free kick put their forward clear through only for a brilliant save by Sean Coffey at his feet to keep the ball out.

In the closing moments, UCD secured the win and a vital three points as Mark Boland broke through the Tolka defence and after a good save from the keeper the ball fell to Robbie Murray to finish into the empty net.

Despite being three down, Tolka still pushed to get back into the game however the UCD defence marshalled by Hugh Davey stood strong to keep a clean sheet and pick up the valuable three points which sees us rise to ninth in the table and six points away from the relegation zone.

UCD Team: Sean Coffey, Dermot O'Kelly, Kieran Bowers, Hugh Davey, Tristan Dent, Robbie Murray, Stephen Doughan, Timmy Molloy, Derek Swan (Brian O'Brolchain), James Shiggins (Joe Keohane), Conor Cannon (Mark Boland)

Man of the match: Timmy Molloy