

Kick-off: 7.45pm, UCD Bowl, Friday 15th March



Friday night sees the return of SSE Airtricity League Premier Division football to the UCD Bowl once more as Finn Harps are the visitors. Last week saw us face a tough trip to Sligo Rovers, and with Evan Osam and Paul Doyle already ruled out through injury, Collie was dealt a tough blow in the lead up to the game with Neil Farrugia and Conor Davis' both added to the injury list after failing fitness tests. However, Collie O'Neill's side went about the game in the right way, and after a brilliant performance they were unlucky to come out on the wrong side of a 1-0 scoreline, in a game in which they perhaps deserved more. Speaking after the game, Collie was pleased with his sides performance, and is hoping that his side can get that little bit of luck they need on Friday night as they look to start turning performances into results.

"We have been playing very well over the last few weeks. I thought we were brilliant or most of the game against Sligo. We controlled large parts of the game, and created plenty of chances to win the game, however we didn't have that little bit of luck that we needed. We will be looking to keep the performances up on Friday night, and hopefully we can look to start building that bit of momentum as we look to start moving up the table."

Finn Harps have been in good form themselves over the last few weeks, and last weekend they ran Cork City all the way, as they took the lead twice, before being unlucky to come out on the wrong side of a seven goal thriller after a world class strike from Gearoid Morrissey.

"Finn Harps will be pleased with their start to the season. They earned a great point, and were

perhaps unlucky not to come away with all three, against Dundalk, and they ran Cork City very close in a seven goal thriller last week. No doubt they will be confident of coming down here and coming away with the three points."

Evan Osam, Paul Doyle, Conor Davis and Neil Farrugia will all be missing for Friday night's game. Evan is continuing his recovery after rupturing his achilles on the eve of the season. Paul Doyle will miss out with an ankle injury which forced him off against St Patrick's Athletic. Meanwhile, Neil Farrugia and Conor Davis will both miss out after picking up knee injuries last week ahead of the game against Sligo Rovers.

Congratulations to Liam Scales and Neil Farrugia who have both been named in Stephen Kenny's Ireland U21 squad for their upcoming qualifier against Luxembourg. As a result of the international call ups, next week's SSE Airtricity League Premier Division tie against Cork City has been postponed with a new date to be announced in due course. Speaking on the announcement Collie O'Neill expressed his delight at the news, and the reward for their hard work.

"It's a huge achievement to be called up to represent your country and one which they should be proud of. They've been brilliant for us and this is a reward for their performances and attitude. They were a key part of last season's title winning team, and have brought that form into this season, and if they can keep going the way they are then hopefully this will only be the start for them."

Richie O'Farrell will also be on international duty next week after been called up to the Ireland under 19 side for their Elite qualifiers in Russia.

Meanwhile, the EA Sports Cup second round draw was made on Tuesday, and we will face a Dublin derby after being drawn away to Shelbourne. The tie will take place in Tolka Park on Tuesday 2nd April at 7.45pm.

Injured: Evan Osam (achilles), Paul Doyle (ankle), Neil Farrugia (knee), Conor Davis (knee)

Doubtful: None

Suspended: None

2019 Results (UCD scorers in brackets):

15 Feb: Derry City 3 – 0 UCD AFC

22 Feb: UCD AFC 0 – 2 Bohemian FC

25 Feb: Dundalk FC 2 – 1 UCD AFC (Farrugia)

1 Mar: UCD AFC 1 – 1 St Patrick's Athletic (Davis)

9 Mar: Sligo Rovers 1 – 0 UCD AFC

2019 Appearances:

League

Cup

Total

Apps

Goals

Apps

Goals

Apps

Goals

Conor Kearns

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Dan Tobin

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Liam Scales

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Josh Collins

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Gary O'Neill

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Timmy Molloy

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Jason McClelland

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Mark Dignam

5 (0)

0

0 (0)

0

5 (0)

0

Neil Farrugia

4 (0)

1

0 (0)

0

4 (0)

1

Conor Davis

4 (0)

1

0 (0)

0

4 (0)

1

Richie O'Farrell

2 (2)

0

0 (0)

0

2 (2)

0

Kevin Coffey

2 (1)

0

0 (0)

0

2 (1)

0

Paul Doyle

2 (1)

0

0 (0)

0

2 (1)

0

Yoyo Mahdy

1 (4)

0

0 (0)

0

1 (4)

0

Sean McDonald

0 (2)

0

0 (0)

0

0 (2)

0

*brackets denotes substitute appearances

**cup includes EA Sports Cup, IDM FAI Cup, and Leinster Senior Cup