

**With the countdown to SuperTuesday underway, Yoyo Mahdy joined our Top10 all time scorers as his two goals against Cabinteely saw him rise to 9th in the list! Here's the full list with thanks to Kevin Burke! A brilliant season from Colm Whelan has also seen him join Andy Myler in 40th place!**



### **10= Tony McDonnell (35 goals)**

Tony Mac's inclusion in the list of our top ten senior goalscorers is more due to endurance rather than proficiency in front of goal. The majority of his appearances for the Students were at centre-half or defensive mid – but with more than 350 appearances, he had time to rack up a few goals. Ciarán Kavanagh is the only player to have played more games for the Students than Tony, and he just fails to make this list with 33 goals in that time.

Debut – 27 March 1994, 2-1 A v Longford. Crossed for current UCD manager Andy Myler to score the winner

First goal – 3 February 1996, 2-0 A v Galway United.

Last goal – 4 November 2005, 2-1 A v Finn Harps

Best season – 7 goals in 2000/01 and again in 2005

Best run (five games or more) – 5 goals in 6 games, Jun/Jul 2005

Most memorable goal – 22 October 2000, 2-2 H v Shamrock Rovers. This was already a relegation six-pointer as the first round of matches came to a close; UCD were in the play-off spot and Rovers were just one point ahead. After three defeats in a row, manager Martin Moran gave McDonnell, recovering from yet another injury, his first league start of the season. Former Student Jason Colwell gave the visitors the lead but McDonnell – who had already hit the post –

swept home a loose ball shortly before the hour mark to equalise. Rovers retook the lead through Seán Francis, but in injury time Clive Delaney blocked a clearance from Rovers keeper Robbie Horgan, and John Martin crossed for McDonnell to equalise a second time. It was his only brace in senior football, and instead of losing four in a row, it was the launchpad for a five-game unbeaten run. UCD ended the season one point ahead of relegation.

### **10= Paul Cullen (35 goals)**

Paul Cullen – a namesake of the Cardinal who had been the driving force behind the Catholic University, UCD's precursor, in the 1850s – signed for UCD in 1988. Curiously, he was going into final year in college that year, having played for Bray Wanderers before that, where his father was a director. His first season saw UCD promoted on goal difference ahead of Bray, but Paul's only goals were a brace against EMFA (subsequently Kilkenny City). Although the Students went straight back down the following season, Cullen was more prominent and set a club record when scoring all four goals in an FAI Cup replay against Bluebell United, while he equalled Martin Moran's club record of 12 goals in a season in both of his final two seasons with the club. He is also the only player to score hat-tricks for UCD in three consecutive seasons.

First goal – 27 November 1988, 2-0 A v EMFA

Last goal – 29 March 1992, 2-0 H v Home Farm

Best season – 12 goals in 1990/91 and again in 1991/92

Best run (five games or more) – 7 goals in 9 games, Jan-Mar 1992

Most memorable goal – 19 November 1989, 3-1 H v Bohemians. Not a vintage season for the Students as the newly-promoted side ended the season bottom for an immediate return to the First Division. But there were some bright spots, among them this win, which Cullen got underway with a volley from the edge of the area, after he was set up by Zsolt Torok, one of five Hungarians to play for UCD that year, courtesy of Vice-President Joe Veselsky's contacts. Torok added a second before Derek Swan – a future UCD player, and father of European hero Ryan – pulled one back for Bohs, but Ian Murray made the points safe. "How Bohemians would have fared without [goalkeeper] Dermot O'Neill hardly bears thinking about", the Irish Times said the following day. It was, at the sixteenth attempt, UCD's first ever league win over Bohs – and for good measure, we were to win in Dalymount two months later.

### **9 Yoyo Mahdy (36 goals)**

Yoyo was given his debut – along with Evan Osam and Cian Kavanagh – in a pre-season LSC game in 2017. Kavanagh marked his debut with a goal and Mahdy would only play 6 more minutes that season – but it's fair to say he's made the bigger impact since! 12 goals in our promotion season was an excellent return when 18 of his 31 appearances were from the bench

as he found himself behind Georgie Kelly and then Conor Davis in the pecking order. He added 9 goals in a turbulent 2019 season, and has been unstoppable in 2020, counting five braces and a hat-trick among his 15 goals. His hat-trick against Wexford was matched by strike partner Colm Whelan – the only time two UCD players have scored hat-tricks in the same match – while his brace in our last match against Cabinteely moved him into the club's top ten scorers list. Another season like 2020 and he'll have his eyes on the top three!

Debut – 17 February 2017, 2-0 H v Drogheda (LSC).

First goal – 16 March 2018, 3-1 A v Athlone Town.

Last goal – 16 October 2020, 5-1 H v Cabinteely (scored twice)

Best season – 15 goals in 2020

Best run (five games of more) – 9 goals in 6 games, Aug/Sep 2020

Most memorable goal – 15 July 2019, 3-0 H v Bohemians

This game featured the club's only two ghost goals in our senior history – and one which very much wasn't a ghost. A club record 12 consecutive defeats had finally been ended with a remarkable win against Finn Harps where we could only name two subs and where Luke Boore played the second half with a damaged hamstring. A draw in Derry followed before a home tie against high-flying Bohs. After just 8 minutes, Mahdy won possession 25 yards out and sent a stunning effort into the top corner. 82 minutes of resilient defending followed, and Conor Kearns was sent off after the final whistle as tempers flared and tensions boiled over. UCD were later awarded a 3-0 win by virtue of Bohs fielding an ineligible player – this had happened once before, when a 3-1 win over Cabo in 2015 was changed to 3-0, but it was the first time the Students were given extra goals as a result. This means that technically, 3-0 awards have scored as many times for UCD as Paul Doolin!

### **7= Jason Sherlock (39 goals)**

In 1994, an unknown teenager in his first season with UCD formed a club record 38-goal partnership with Mick O'Byrne, winning the First Division, First Division Shield and Leinster Senior Cup on the way, as well as taking high-flying Cork City to two replays in a marathon FAI Cup tie. But by the end of the season, Jason Sherlock had achieved nationwide fame by winning Sam Maguire with Dublin, ending a now-unthinkable 12 year drought. He missed the first two months of the 1995/96 Lol season as a result, but when he returned, hundreds turned up at Belfield Park just to watch Jayo play. He continued to play both codes – as well as playing basketball for Ireland and co-presenting Rapid on RTÉ with Kathryn Thomas. In January 1995, he was named Lol Player of the Month, the first time a UCD player won that honour. After one season with Shamrock Rovers, he decided to focus exclusively on GAA and played intercounty for Dublin up to 2013, though he never appeared in another All-Ireland final.

League debut – 25 September 1994, 2-0 H v Bray Wanderers

First goal – 2 October 1994, 3-0 A v Limerick

Last goal – 8 May 1998, 3-1 A v Limerick (play-off)

Best season – 15 goals in 1997/98

Best run (five games of more) – 7 goals in 10 games, Feb-Apr 1998

Most memorable goal – 8 May 1998, 3-1 A v Limerick

The "Battle of Belfield" three days earlier had left UCD with a narrow 2-1 lead to defend going into the second leg of a play-off match against Limerick. Jayo had been one of three players sent off for late a punch-up in a match which had already seen UCD full-back Declan Fitzgerald's career ended by a broken leg, and Limerick were reduced to 8 men in injury time for a grim challenge on Clive Delaney as tensions boiled over. So when Aidan Lynch then scored a winner six minutes into injury time, the return game was set up rather nicely.

None of the four players sent off were suspended – the disciplinary panel not having met in the meantime – so Sherlock took his place in the starting line-up again. And after the sides traded goals to make it 3-2 on aggregate, it was Jayo who made things safe – played through by Tony McDonnell, he beat the outrushing Limerick keeper to the ball and slotted home from 30 yards. The event was slightly overshadowed by Brian Kerr's Ireland U16s winning the European Championships the same day, Ireland's first ever major international trophy.

### **7= Georgie Kelly (39 goals)**

No-one in our top ten achieved his tally in as few games as Georgie Kelly – although alongside that, he's also the only player without a Premier Division goal in his tally. But if his star shone briefly at Belfield, it also shone brightly – the First Division's top scorer in 2017 with 17 goals, and its second top scorer in 2018 despite the fact that he signed for Dundalk mid-way through. That 2018 season saw him claim the possibly unique distinction of claiming both a First Division and a Premier Division winner's medal in the same season – and he added an FAI Cup winner's medal for good measure.

Debut – 5 March 2016, 1-4 A v Limerick

First goal – 8 March 2016, 3-2 A v Crumlin United (LSC).

Last goal – 15 June 2018, 3-1 A v Finn Harps

Best season – 18 goals in 2017

Best run (five games of more) – 11 goals in 10 games, Apr-Jun 2018

Most memorable goal – 13 April 2018, 3-2 H v Finn Harps

In 2017, Georgie scored hat-tricks in separate 4-0 wins over Athlone, becoming only the second UCD player to score two hat-tricks in a season. But his third club hat-trick, against Harps the

following year, was much more important. A 2-0 defeat in Drogheda the previous week had allowed Harps overtake UCD at the top of the table, and they now visited the Bowl for the first time since winning the 2015 play-off. Georgie gave UCD an early lead, but two goals just before half-time had Harps in the lead at the break. Georgie levelled things on 68 before confirming the win with an unusual goal. Daire O'Connor floated a cross into the box, Georgie's header was parried, but even as he fell over, the ball rebounded off his back and trickled past the keeper and into the net. Georgie left to join Dundalk mid-season, but was back in the Bowl to watch his successor Conor Davis score against Harps to seal the title in the penultimate game of the season.

### **5= Gary O'Neill (40 goals)**

A week before Christmas 2014, Hereford United in the English Southern Leagues were wound up in the English courts, and the newly-redundant Gary O'Neill returned home to Kerry to ponder his next steps. A meeting with Pat Devlin a few weeks later provided it. Three months after making his UCD debut, the Students were thrust into a memorable European campaign, where Gary excelled. 2016 saw 16 goals, a remarkable return for a midfielder, and his 13 league goals saw him the division's top scorer – although Limerick scored 86 goals in the league that season, none of their players could match Gary's total. A First Division title and an FAI Cup semi-final appearance followed before a move mid-way through last season to Shamrock Rovers, which ended in him scoring the winning penalty as Rovers ended their 33-year-long wait for an FAI Cup.

Debut – 13 February 2015, 1-2 A v Dundalk (LSC)

First goal – 7 March 2015, 3-0 A v Cobh Ramblers

Last goal – 15 April 2019, 2-1 H v Cork City

Best season – 16 goals in 2016

Best run (five games or more) – 8 goals in 8 games, May-Jul 2016

Most memorable goal – 4 May 2018, 1-1 A v Shelbourne

Another important goal from our 2018 title winning season coming up. This time, after 89 minutes in Tolka Park, the Students were 1-0 down in an increasingly tetchy encounter, with Shels set to close the gap at the top to just two points. Then Gary picked the ball up on the edge of the area and his strike deflected into the bottom corner, leading to exuberant – and probably excessive, if we're honest! – celebrations in front of the home fans, the goal being scored into the Shed end. The drama wasn't over yet – in injury-time, Georgie Kelly went down in the box, again right in front of the Shed, but the referee issued Kelly a second yellow for diving. Kelly made his way down the tunnel to a hail of projectiles, but another big point had been both earned and made on the way to the title.

### **5= Dave McMillan (40 goals)**

Dave joined his brother Evan at UCD in 2008, though his only appearance in our relegation year was as an injury-time sub in Cork. In 2009, he formed a 28-goal partnership with Ciarán Kilduff, with the two scoring 13 goals between them in the last 8 games as we stormed to the title. He joined St Pat's for 2011 and then had a spell in Australia before returning to UCD in 2012 for a second prolific spell; his 12 goals in 2013 were his best return for the club, even though he joined Sligo half-way through. A move to Dundalk saw three Premier Division titles, two League Cups, an FAI Cup – and a season as the top scorer in the entire of Champions League qualifying. After a spell partnering another former Student, Conor Sammon, at Falkirk, he is now back at Dundalk.

Debut – 26 September 2008, 0-2 A v Cork City

First goal – 20 March 2009, 3-0 H v Monaghan United

Last goal – 28 June 2013, 3-0 H v Cork City

Best season – 12 goals in 2009 and 2013

Best run (five games of more) – 8 goals in 8 games, May/Jun 2013

Most memorable goal – 23 October 2009, 2-1 H v Longford Town

As the 2009 First Division season came to its conclusion, UCD were on a six match unbeaten streak, while nearest rivals Shels were starting to stutter, and were now five points adrift with two matches in hand. With Shels not in action against Athlone until the following day, 100 Shels fans came out to the Bowl in the hope that Longford could help their ailing title challenge.

Despite the home side forcing three corners in the first minute, Longford held firm and took a surprise lead midway through the second half, a goal which was celebrated by two sets of fans in the stand.

But UCD kept plugging away as the clock ticked down. Ronan Finn played one of his best games in a UCD shirt, the linesman frustrated Ciarán Kilduff, and Town's defending got increasingly desperate, but five minutes from time, the breakthrough finally came. A long ball forward from Seán Harding found Dave McMillan running into space, and from the corner of the box he fired a first-time shot in off the underside of the bar. Two minutes later, Finn converted a penalty, and UCD sealed the title in Athlone the following week.

### **4 Robbie Martin (43 goals)**

From a footballing family – his dad Paul played for Athlone against AC Milan in the UEFA Cup in 1975 – Robbie turned down Ipswich to sign for UCD alongside his brother John, already an established first-teamer. With Ciarán Martyn also in the team at the time, the three were a copywriter's nightmare, and we're only mostly confident all their goals – 13 for John and 22 for Ciarán – are correctly ascribed! Robbie scored his first goal in the FAI Cup against Youghal – also the same time Martyn/J Martin/R Martin were on the pitch together – and his trademark somersault celebration became a regular sight at Belfield for the next five years. Robbie is the

only substitute to score a hat-trick for UCD – he came on as a sub after 14 minutes of a league match in Monaghan in February 2002, and scored three times in 15 second-half minutes to earn a 3-0 win.

Debut – 15 October 2000, 0-1 H v Derry City

First goal – 7 January 2001, 3-1 H v Youghal United (FAI Cup)

Last goal – 4 November 2005, 2-1 A v Finn Harps

Best season – 15 goals in 2004

Best run (five games or more) – 5 goals in 6 games, Aug/Sep 2004

Most memorable goal – 22 August 2005, 2-1 A v Shelbourne (League Cup semi-final)

In 2005, Shels were the top team in the country – it was only 12 months since the reigning champions had held Deportivo La Coruna scoreless at home and for the first half in Spain in the Champions League final play-off round. But the reigning champions were struggling a bit this year, and on the morning of this League Cup semi-final tie, it was announced that the League Cup winners would, for the first time, qualify for the money-spinning Setanta Cup. If this was an attempt to give Shels a helping hand, the newly-promoted Students hadn't read the script. 85 minutes of – to be honest – forgettable Tolka Park fare was livened up five minutes from time when Colin Hawkins netted for Shels. But Brian Gannon chipped an equaliser on 90 minutes – and in the last minute of injury time, Shels captain Owen Heary left a backpass miles short and Robbie Martin nipped in to round keeper Steve Williams and walk the ball into the net from 20 yards out, with teammates and supporters celebrating all the way to the final. Shels only dropped five points in their remaining 13 league games to reach the Setanta Cup anyway; Robbie would come back to haunt us in the FAI Cup semi-final the following season, when his goal in Belfield Park sent Longford to the Lansdowne Road showpiece.

### **3 Robbie Griffin (50 goals)**

Robbie's place in our top three is more down to consistency than proficiency – he only once managed double-figures in a season, and missed most of the romp to the 94/95 title with injury, but over nine years and two spells in Belfield, he was a regular source of goals nonetheless, and played alongside more of our top ten than any other player featured. He left to join his home-town club Waterford in 1998 – a transfer which features in Mark Tighe's book Champagne Football – and after a spell with St Pat's, he returned to Belfield in 2003, adding another six goals and consolidating his place in our all-time senior top three.

Debut – 19 August 1990, 1-0 H v St Patrick's Athletic (League Cup)

First goal – 30 September 1990, 3-0 H v Kilkenny City (First Division Shield)

Last goal – 14 November 2003, 2-1 H v Drogheda United

Best season – 11 goals in 1992/93

Best run (five games of more) – 5 goals in 5 games, Mar 1993

Most memorable goal – 14 November 2003, 2-1 H v Drogheda United

This was not just a vital relegation six-pointer, but also a bit of a grudge match. UCD started the season with eight straight defeats, and by the time manager Paul Doolin left to join Drogheda, we were 7 points adrift of Derry with a game more played. Pete Mahon took over – Robbie Griffin had scored twice as UCD had dumped Mahon's Belgrove out of the FAI Cup just six weeks earlier – and the impact was immediate as the Students lost just four of Mahon's 16 games in charge.

This game – three matches from the end of the season – saw Doolin return to Belfield for the first time. Gavin Whelan – who would join Drogheda the following season – opened the scoring, heading past Gary Rogers, still in the Lol with Dundalk. Drogheda equalised with a 20-yarder, but with 25 minutes to go, veteran Robbie Griffin came off the bench and within ten minutes had headed the winner to lift UCD off the bottom of the table for the first time all season. UCD v Drogheda games were to pick up a bit of an edge in the coming seasons, including a back-and-forth row between Mahon and Doolin in the media, and Griffin's goal here gave us first blood. Unfortunately, Derry rallied to get seven points from their last three games and stay up on the final day.

### **2 Darren O'Brien (74 goals)**

Our top two goalscorers are some way clear of the rest, and both played alongside each other for part of their careers. Darren O'Brien marked himself out as one to watch right from the start – his first goals were also his first hat-trick in a 3-2 League Cup win in Sligo. But it was the early 90s – as UCD repeatedly missed out on promotion on the final day – which were his most productive spells. In 1991/92, he matched Paul Cullen and Martin Moran's record of 12 goals in a season (as did Cullen). In 92/93, he bettered it with 13, and he smashed it the following year with 19. In fact, he had the record broken by November – in a 14-game run that season, he scored 6 braces, a record beaten last week by Yoyo Mahdy, who managed the same in 12 games.

Debut – 24 August 1986, 0-2 A v St Patrick's Athletic (LSC)

First goal – 28 September 1986, 3-2 A v Sligo Rovers (League Cup)

Last goal – 2 March 1997, 3-0 H v Cork City

Best season – 19 goals in 1993/94

Best run (five games of more) – 10 goals in 7 games, Sept-Oct 1993

Most memorable goal – 20 December 1992, 5-0 H v Kilkenny City



This match saw a number of club records broken. It was, at the time, our record league win, and in the course of it Darren notched his 30th league goal for the club, which was also a record. His first on 48 minutes was a fine individual effort, and two minutes later he poked home a Jason Colwell cross to make it 4-0. He fired in a volley on 75 to seal his hat-trick. Nothing particularly unusual in that though – except he'd scored a hat-trick the previous week against Home Farm as well. Paul Buttner, writing for the Irish Times, hailed it as an achievement possibly unique in League of Ireland history.

### Interlude – bubbling under

Before we reveal our top senior scorer, a look at those who fill out the top 40...

- 12 Ciarán Kilduff (34 goals)
- 13 Ciarán Kavanagh (33 goals)
- 14= Ken O'Doherty (30 goals)
- 14= Robbie Benson (30 goals)
- 14= Martin Moran (30 goals)
- 17 Mark McKenna (27 goals)
- 18 Pat McWalter (26 goals)
- 19= Graham Rusk (24 goals)
- 19= Jason McClelland (24 goals)
- 21 Ryan Swan (23 goals)
- 22= Peter Hanrahan (22 goals)
- 22= Ciarán Martyn (22 goals)
- 24= Conor Sammon (19 goals)
- 24= Dave Tilson (19 goals)
- 24= Joe Hanrahan (19 goals)
- 24= Chris Mulhall (19 goals)
- 28= Brendan Murphy (18 goals)
- 28= David Cassidy (18 goals)
- 28= Jason Colwell (18 goals)
- 28= Eóin Bennis (18 goals)
- 28= Rob McAuley (18 goals)
- 33= Paul Byrne (17 goals)
- 33= Mick O'Donnell (17 goals)
- 33= Alan McNally (17 goals)
- 36 Cillian Morrison (16 goals)
- 37= Willie Doyle (15 goals)
- 37= Packie Lynch (15 goals)
- 37= Terry Palmer (15 goals)
- 40= Colm Whelan (14 goals)
- 40= Andy Myler (14 goals)

### 1 Mick O'Byrne (85 goals)

Micko made his debut as Darren O'Brien's strike partner as the latter broke various club records in the 1993/94 season – the most notable of which was his 19 goals. Micko had that record beaten by January of his second season when scoring his 20th of the season against Kilkenny, and when the sides met again at the end of the season, Micko scored his 27th of the campaign, which included goals in both the Leinster Senior Cup final and the First Division Shield final. The following season, though, was arguably more impressive as he scored 17 to break the club's record for a Premier Division season (since broken by Ciarán Kilduff with 18 in 2010). His 12 goals in 1999/00 helped the club to Europe, and he's one of only two players in this list to play for the club in Europe (Gary O'Neill being the other – Tony McDonnell missed the Intertoto games through injury)

League debut – 19 September 1993, 2-3 A v Kilkenny City

First goal – 26 September 1993, 4-1 H v Finn Harps

Last goal – 28 November 2000, 4-1 H v Limerick (League Cup semi-final)

Best season – 27 goals in 1994/95

Best run (five games of more) – 9 goals in 9 games, Aug-Sep 1994

Most memorable goal –

There's obviously lots to choose from here, including two cup-winning efforts in the 1994/95 season and the infamous "Goal probably scored by Mick O'Byrne" when PA Michael Higgins didn't want to embarrass a St Pat's player (we won't name him here either!) by crediting him with a clear own goal in 2000.

But let's go to Drogheda in April 2000. UCD travelled with an outside chance of finishing fourth in the league – equalling our best-ever finish – and with it, of qualifying for Europe for the first time in 16 years. To do so, we needed to beat already-relegated Drogheda 5-0 and hope St Pat's didn't win in Galway. With five minutes to go, it was 0-0 in Galway, where Paul Osam (Evan's dad) had been sent off, and 3-0 in Drogheda. There followed surely the most dramatic conclusion to a UCD campaign ever as Micko slotted home on 86 minutes to put us within one goal of Europe. Spurred on, Mick O'Donnell added the crucial fifth two minutes later – but then in injury time came news of a goal in Galway. If Pat's had scored it, then our record away league win was all in vain. But the goal had gone to Galway, and the celebrations in the Montrose went on long into the night