

Airtricity League Premier Division

UCD (0) 4 BRAY WANDERERS (0) 0

Kilduff 51, 54, 72, Bolger 77

UCD Bowl, Friday 16 July 2010 ko 1945

By Brian de Salvo

“Normal Service has been resumed” – or so it would seem from the score line. Indeed, it was, eventually, a comfortable home win but it would be simplistic to make judgement on the stats alone. For a start, UCD’s two opening goals were justifiably disputed and, although the Students were moving into cruise control at that stage of the game, conceding two goals within

three minutes in such circumstances would be enough to deflate most defences, less alone that with the worst record in the division. Add to this that the Seagulls dominated the first twenty minutes with a corner count of seven to nil and you will realise that there was more to this entertaining game than the result might suggest.

But Bray didn't score during that early purple patch. The corners provided some anxious moments for keeper Barron in a crowded goalmouth but when Shane O'Neill seized the opportunity to hit a fierce rising drive on target the big UCD keeper was alert and turned it over. There was nothing he could do, however, about Webster's cross that the diving O'Neill just failed to get his head to.

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That was in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute and the UCD midfield, with Ward a delight to watch and O'Connor a massive presence, was beginning to grab hold of the game. Indeed, even in the earlier stages, the home side looked the more likely to score. Brian Kane made several saves of distinction, the first as early as the 5<sup>th</sup> minute when he flung himself to his right to parry in what was to become a personal duel with Ciaran Kilduff. He repeated his heroics in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> minutes as the visitors steadily lost their grip on proceedings.

So it was no surprise when UCD took the lead five minutes into the second period although the legality of the goal was questioned and Bray keeper Kane's protest earned him a yellow card. Paul O'Connor's low drive from the edge of the penalty area came back off Kilduff's ankle. Ward teed up O'Connor a second time and this time Kane turned his blistering drive on to the underside of the bar from whence it rebounded for Kilduff to head into the empty net from four yards. Offside? Certainly the big striker was goal side of the keeper when he scored. It all depends of where he came from when O'Connor's second effort was struck. If you think about it

he was unlikely to be standing where he ended up when he headed home; anyway Assistant Rhona Daly ruled it kosher.

