

Collingwood Cup Preview!

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The Collingwood Cup plays a huge part in the development of Irish University footballer's, and is one competition which lives long in the memories of past and present UCD players, and one which creates lasting memories for years to come.



This year sees our squad travel to Limerick where we will face Queen's University Belfast in the quarter final in a repeat of last year's final. It took a brilliant last minute winner from Daire O'Connor last year to ensure that the prestigious cup returned to Belfield after a 2-1 victory after Queens had earlier equalised with a brilliant free kick. The opening game will take place on Monday with an 11am kick off in UL.

Diarmuid McNally's side faced a tough trip away to Mary Immaculate in round one of the competition two weeks ago to qualify for the main competition, thanks to goals from Evan Osam and Gary O'Neill.

Diarmuid takes a strong squad to Limerick for this year's competition with 17 players from our League of Ireland squad included in the travelling 22 man squad, along with 5 from our Leinster Senior League side. He will however have to do without Conor Kearns, Liam Scales and Neil Farrugia for the week after their fine form for our League of Ireland and CUFL sides, has been rewarded with a call up to Stephen Kenny's Irish under 21 squad for this week's training camp and friendly against the Irish Amateur side. New signing, Richie O'Farrell will also be unavailable as he is with the Irish under 19 side this week.

We will be bringing you live updates of all our games throughout the week on our Facebook and Twitter accounts!

www.facebook.com/ucdafc

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Rory Keaveny recalls his last Collingwood Cup in Cork in 2009.

The premier intervarsity tournament pits the best players in Universities from across the island of Ireland in a 4 day long knock out competition. To win it you have to be the best and beat the best with a game ever 4 days. Keaveny and his UCD side of 2009 did just that. 10 years on from those memories we look back as UCD Legend, Rory Keaveny recalls his last Collingwood Cup in Cork in 2009.

I luckily had the privilege of captaining a winning UCD side in the 2009 Collingwood Cup in Cork. This was a spectacular experience and would say without doubt it is the best memory of my brief footballing career! We went into the side with the bones of the then UCD Eircom League team and a number of Irish University internationals on the side, myself included. We had a fantastic squad, with young aspiring stars like Mick Leahy and Robbie Creevy mixed with seasoned pros like Philip Bourke and Marc Whelan. So the pressure was certainly on. It had been a number of years since UCD won the tournament and hopes were high.

The squad assembled and went down to Cork and from the moment we stepped on the bus the professional standards expected were there for all to see. The first hotel we stayed in wasn't up to par so our management team, led by Maccer led us to a far better hotel and that set the tone. We had a seriously tough run of games up to the final and every member of our squad was thoroughly used. The toll of playing 4 games in 4 days with extra time in two of those speaks for itself.

I was brought through the tournament on the back of intensive physio and intensive painkillers. We beat UUJ in the semi-final in an absolutely frantic encounter. We went 2-1 up in last min of extra time and then UUJ scored with the last kick of the game. We eased through the penalties thanks to the cool head of Mick Leahy and my calming words!

Into the final and a very tight encounter with NUI Galway was edged by a moment of sheer class by Robbie Creevy allowing me to lift the trophy. It was absolute grit, determination and pure quality from our side that won it for us. The tournament was incredibly exciting and such was the quality of football, organisation and the effort of all teams that made it absolutely

memorable. The satisfaction of the booze up on the bus back to Dublin was worth the pain my limbs felt, I was on crutches for a few days after the tournament such was the toll on my legs but as I said winning the Collingwood Cup was the best football memory I have.

[Original article with Rory from 2012](#)

Collingwood Cup – Round One:

- Mary Immaculate College 0 – 2 University College Dublin (Osam, O'Neill)
- Maynooth University 2 – 2 Trinity College Dublin (Maynooth win on penalties)
- NUI Galway 0 – 2 Ulster University

Byes: Dublin City University, Queens University Belfast, Royal College of Surgeons, University College Cork, University of Limerick

Quarter Final Fixtures:

- Ulster University vs Royal College of Surgeons – 11am, UL all-weather
- Queens University Belfast vs University College Dublin – 11am, UL grass pitch
- Dublin City University vs University College Cork – 2.30pm, UL all-weather
- University of Limerick vs Maynooth University – 2.30pm, UL grass pitch

UCD Collingwood Cup Squad:

Goalkeepers: Gavin Sheridan, Lorcan Healy

Defenders: Luke Boore, Josh Collins, Darragh Corcoran, Mark Dignam, Evan Farrell, Evan Osam, Daniel Tobin

Midfielders: Sean Byrne, Sean Coyne, Conor Crowley, Paul Doyle, Dara Keane, Jason McClelland, Timmy Molloy, Gary O'Neill, Jack Ryan

Forwards: Gareth Coughlan, Conor Davis, Yoyo Mahdy, Sean McDonald