

A brief look at a Superleague phenomenon.



The nil all draw is almost unique to football. Not many other sports across the globe will allow a match to end without a clear winner, or even a bare winner. Teams regularly win and lose by cricket scores, are sporadically hockeyed and when this happens they will often look at a nil all draw in awe. The nil all draw can be down to great goalkeepers, horrendous strikers or both teams' ability to park the bus, either way it occurs with regularity throughout the footballing world.

That got the brain cells wondering how often it happens in our dear old Superleague. In a world where talent is widespread and not necessarily always football related, where some of the game's greatest striking practitioners have plied their trade against a mate who happened to have goalie gloves and conversely where a striker was born out of a necessity to simply keep him away from causing danger in his own box. It is rare that both teams even each other out to such an extent neither tests the durability of the onion sack.

With all teams nearly at the ten game mark in nearly all 3 Superleague Divisions it is clear that in time honoured fashion scoring and conceding goals is a ritual that few teams in any division are willing to part with, signing the death notice for the nil all draw, one would think. In Premier Saturday there is a 49 goal swing in the goal difference column between top and bottom, in Sunday Premier it is 58 and in Saturday Division 1 it is 49. The goals have been flowing in at either end making the UCD AFC Superleague the greatest spectator league in the world, even better than the Bundesliga!

So let's take a minute to salute a rarity, in the battle between Sauce Pan Celtic and Templeogue Titans the match ended scoreless. Sauce Pan, sitting pretty on top of the league, took on the Titans struggling near the foot of Division 1 Saturday and the result was a stalemate. No goals, but no doubt both sets of strikers found the keepers in inspired form, the respective offside traps were finely tuned and the midfield battle was fierce with no inch given or taken. It can be presumed that this was the story of the game as why else would two teams so used to scoring and conceding goals, suddenly stop, for one game only\*.

In the predictable craziness of the UCD AFC Superleague it is nice to see the madness of a nil all draw, just once in around 180 fixtures since September!

\*The game was played on the GAA Astro, nowhere on any Superleague pitch is the battle more intense to get the ball from one end to the other. A small point after all the number crunching!