

Sacred Heart 1-2 UCD AFC, LSL Saturday Major 1



UCD AFC made a winning start to the new Leinster Senior League Major 1 Saturday season thanks to goals from Stephen Doyle and Stiofan Sexton at Sacred Heart on Saturday afternoon.

UCD have never won on the astro turf pitch in Sacred Heart before and were hammered 5-0 there last year. But on a roasting hot day the Boys in Blue started well and passed the ball well as all UCD AFC teams try to do.

Sacred Heart piled on the pressure in the opening minutes but Diarmuid McNally's side weathered it well.

UCD had a lot of play down the left with Neill Hickey and Brian McDonald. also good link up from the three mid fielders Robbie Murray, Ryan McErlane and Ronan Lynah.

But it was the home side that took the lead, as UCD attacked down the left they post the ball and were caught on the break, the scorer turning a UCD defender in the box and shooting into the bottom corner.

UCD got going again and had a couple of half chances in the closing minutes of an even first half. Brian McDonald, McErlane and Lynah all had chance but UCD went in 1-0 down at half time.

Winning start for LSL Saturday Major 1

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The Students started the second half quickly and in a very even first 15 minutes got we got a couple of corners.

One of those corners led to the equaliser, former first team player Stephen Doyle happed in Niall Wright's knock down to make it 1-1.

UCD were now on top with all the ball came from the right side, Doyle had great joy against the opposition full back and got some good crosses into the box.

Then with about about 15 minutes to go, Lynah won a penalty and up stepped Sexton to send the 'keeper the wrong way and make it 2-1.

Sacred Heart battled back and UCD were under pressure, struggling to get out of their own half.

However they defended well as a unit, clearing everthing and not getting caught one on one.

With five minutes to go Sexton could have made the result safe but hit the crossbar.

More long throws and corners into the UCD box followed, but defenders and goalkeeper Conor McGroarty were up to the task and ensured UCD made a winning start to the season.

Conor McGroarty, Niall Wright, Neill Hickey, Robbie Keogh (c), Jack Doyle, Ryan McErlane, Stephen Doyle (alan sutton 80), Robbie Murray, Stefan Sexton (Niall McLoughlin 85), Ronan Lynah, Brian McDonald (Darren Muldowny 65)