

BLUE REVIEW

Official Club Magazine

April 2022



SSE Airtricity League of Ireland Premier Division

UCD v Drogheda United

UCD v St Patrick's Athletic

Friday

Monday

15th April 2022

18th April 2022

UCD Bowl

7:45pm

5:00pm



JIGSAW

UCD Bowl Ground

Regulations

* All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following ground regulations and rules and regulations of the club.

* Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these rules and regulations.

* Fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, laser pens, flares or any similar articles or containers including anything that could be used as a weapon are not permitted

* Within the ground, any person in possession of such article or container may be refused entry or ejected from the ground.

* The consumption of intoxicating liquor is not permitted.

* The unauthorised climbing of floodlight pylons, stands or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.

* Unnecessary noise such as that from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind, including foul or abusive language, is not permitted in the ground.

* Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time.

* Any persons who fail to comply with the instructions from the stewards may be ejected from the ground.

* In general the right of admission is reserved to unauthorised persons who are not the ground management.

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* Only persons specifically authorised in writing by club management are permitted to offer for sale or distribute any newspaper, periodical or any other article.

* Any person found damaging or defacing the property of the club will be prosecuted.

* Persons are admitted to this ground subject to their acceptance of these ground rules of the football association of Ireland and the Airtricity league.

* The ground management reserves the right to refuse admission to or eject any person who refuses to be searched by an Garda Síochana.

* Any person who remains in a gangway may be ejected from the stadium.

* The ground management will not tolerate any form of racist abuse.

* The ground management reserves the right for servants or agents to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with the ground regulations or whose presence in the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.

* The moving from one area of the stadium to another without permission of a steward, An Garda

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WELCOME TO THE BOWL

Welcome to the UCD Bowl

I'd like to give a special welcome to Kevin and all at Drogheda United and Tim and the St Patrick's Athletic players, staff and supporters to these games.

It's been a difficult start to life back in the Premier Division, however there are plenty of positives that we can take. We've four draws so far, and perhaps could have turned some of those into victories. We've a very young, talented side, who are improving every week and proving they can compete at this level.

Last week was a great performance in Sligo, and some really good play and goals from us in the second half helped to turn the game around. We need to try and build from that second half performance now.

We know we are going to be up against it for these games. We started poorly against a Drogheda side playing well earlier in the season, they punished us for that and were out of sight by half time. Against St Pat's, we played well for large portions of the game, however they were ruthless and punished our mistakes.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of the players and staff the very best of luck in the Collingwood Cup final at the end of the month in Oriel Park (Tuesday 26th April at 2pm). It is a fantastic achievement to get to the final and let's hope they can bring it home against Queen's Belfast.

Enjoy the game!

Andy



UCD AFC Roll of Honour

FAI Cup 1984

First Division 1994/5, 2009, 2018

Super Cup 2000/1

Leinster Senior Cup 1980/1, 1994/5, 1995/6

First Division Shield 1991/2, 1994/5

First Division runners-up 1988/9, 2004

League Cup runners-up 2000/1, 2005

A Championship 2008, 2010

Dr Tony O'Neill U-20 League 2004, 2005, 2007,
2009, 2016

FAI Intermediate Cup 1944/5

IFA Intermediate Cup 1914/5

Cup Winners' Cup representatives 1984/5

InterToto Cup representatives 2000/1

Europa League representatives 2015

Collingwood Cup – 47 wins

Harding Cup – 17 wins

FOR US FOR THEM

There's probably more players in the league who have played for UCD at some stage than for any other club. Declan Hughes talks to one player who has played for both us and our visitors tonight

Declan Hughes – Paul, you began your career in schoolboy football at Rangers YC. What was the biggest success during your time there for your team?

Paul Crowley – Rangers up in Bushy Park was where it all began for me. I had two great managers in Dermot O'Shea and Peter Sinnott and while we always had competitive squads, we were always in the same division as Cherry Orchard, St. Joseph's Boys, Belvedere and Stella Maris.

Most of those teams had between them 8-9 players who went away to England around age 17. There was a cluster of them went away at the same time. We didn't really win any silverware at that time but 2-3 of my team-mates went away to

England from Rangers. It gave me my move to Shamrock Rovers and that's where my League of Ireland story started. I am very grateful for that opportunity and to those two managers.

DH – You were with Shamrock Rovers for a number of seasons, but you never got a foothold in the first team really?

PC – On my move to Shamrock Rovers I was 16, and I made my first team debut at 17 – actually against UCD in Belfield, there's one for you. I was young and the league back then was not one where there was a lot of younger players. It was over 20 years ago. I found it tough, the transition, but what I got

out of it, I was very grateful for. We trained 4-5 times a week and I played with some serious quality players and learned good habits and how to look after myself. I had plenty of appearances off the bench. It made me grow from a boy into a man within my few years there.

I had grown up in Milltown, so playing for Shamrock Rovers was a great thing but at the end of one of the seasons, it was a big decision to leave them, but I decided to

move on. I felt for my own career that I needed to play regularly, and I went to the First Division and Dublin City with John Gill initially on loan.

DH – That was a strong side that won promotion. Was it disappointing

that you didn't establish your spot in the Premier Division as a follow on?

PC – I got great experience playing every week in a good side with a mix of players with great experience and some great young players. It was where I got my foothold in the league – played with a fantastic guy in the middle of the park, Aaron Lynch, who was great to me and helped me along.

We won the First Division – John Gill had a knack of putting a squad together – but we didn't manage to stay up. But the experience of playing alongside Aaron Lynch stood to me.



DH – You left for a season in Waterford and then returned to Dublin City just before they folded. How did that come about?

PC – We played against Waterford a number of times during the Premier Division season with Dublin City. Waterford would have had Alan Reynolds playing in midfield for them, one of the best the league has ever seen physically, very good on the ball, and could control the game. We had a few fierce battles with him during the season. He said to me after one of the games “I want you with me next year”.

I didn't know at the time that he was going to take on managing the team. Dublin City ended up getting relegated that year. That's how my move materialised – he was on to me then. Shamrock Rovers were also interested. Roddy Collins was in charge there but I needed an operation at the end of the season and I missed a bit of pre-season as a consequence. Shamrock Rovers wanted to wait till the operation happened before committing. Waterford were happy enough to sign me straight away and help me with the recovery. It's great to be with a club where you know you are going to play regularly. It was important for me. So I took the option – the harder option – of driving up and down to Waterford, because I wanted the experience of playing in the Premier Division.

That year it didn't work out with Alan. Waterford had a few managers and Pat Dolan was in charge at the end of the season. Invaluable experience.

When someone is keen to play you, that's the option you need to take. So I came back and signed for Dublin City, Dermot Keely was in charge but it just didn't happen that year for one reason or another, and in the middle of the season unfortunately Dublin City folded. I know how much went into that, from changing over from Home Farm and trying to get the name established and the Chairman Ronan Seery who even re-mortgaged his home to try and keep it

going and he put everything he had into the club afloat. And then it was onto Pete then in UCD.

DH – What was your impression of your time at during your spell at UCD?

PC – Pete Mahon and Martin Russell at UCD were probably the best-balanced management team I ever worked for.

Pete was a fantastic man manager. Knew how to keep control of the dressing room. What I found special between the two of them was that Pete let Martin do all the coaching and training. He stepped in with the tactics ahead of the game but left the rest of the training with Martin.

The balance of the two was fantastic. Pete would control everything around the club. Back then the professionalism, and the great facilities available – UCD would have been among the first football clubs in the League of Ireland to have had conditioning work after training and body fats monitored and working on recovery, ice baths and all that – Pete was in control of all of that. A great UCD man and a great football man. And Martin was great on the coaching side of it. Two great lads, the balance between the two of them was fantastic.

DH – You had three separate spells at Drogheda United, it must have been a place you enjoyed playing for you to return on two occasions. How did it compare to Dundalk and Shamrock Rovers for instance?

PC – A great little tight-knit club. A great community club, very well supported. It's hard to compare them. I enjoyed my team at the three clubs immensely. I had great times in Drogheda, winning the EA Sports League Cup in 2012 and finishing second place in the league. It's a place that will always be close to me – it's where I'm living now, out in Termonfeckin. I go back often and help out with LOITV commentaries.

I had one season at Dundalk under John Gill and won another First Division medal. Unfortunately the chairman decided to axe all the players and staff after getting them

back into the Premier Division. I am sure you were aware of that!

Very unfair to the time John Gill put into the club, but water under the bridge and you have to move on and it was to St. Pat's.

DH – How did you find your season at Richmond Park?

PC – One of the most enjoyable seasons I had. A fantastic European run – my only opportunity to play in European football. We got through two rounds which was fantastic. We had Pete Mahon and John Gill in charge there. We were competitive in the league, had great supporters, but unfortunately Pete moved on at the end of the season. That's what happens. It was

2011 and I was on to Drogheda in 2012.

Overall, playing for Shamrock Rovers, they'd always be that little bit closer as they were the club in the area I was born and reared. Playing in Europe for St Patrick's Athletic was another special highlight. Playing for Drogheda winning the EA Sports Cup and also getting Dundalk back into the Premier Division and winning the First Division with Dublin City. Playing for Waterford – we were 14 points off staying up and ended up staying in the division, and I scored the goal that kept them up at Dalymount against Bohemians. Made approximately 350 league appearances, and memories in a lot of places. And I enjoyed my time at UCD. They were all great clubs in different ways to play for.

Recent history

04/03/22 Premier Division
Drogheda United 4-2 **UCD**
G Deegan 20 S Todd 55
C Lyons 24, 43 L Kerrigan 83
D Williams 65

18/09/20 First Division
UCD 1-3 **Drogheda United**
C Whelan 18 M Doyle 48, 57
B Bermingham 90

06/03/19 First Division
Drogheda United 5-1 **UCD**
M Doyle 8 L Kerrigan 65
J Adeyamo 9

C Lyons 17
J Tuite 33
S Brennan 73 (pen)

31/08/18 First Division
Drogheda United 0-3 **UCD**
S Brennan s/o 44 C Davis 45, 55, 82

08/06/18 First Division
UCD 2-0 **Drogheda United**
G Kelly 21, 81

06/04/18 First Division
Drogheda United 2-0 **UCD**
G McCaffrey 52
L Duffy 67

Recent history

14/03/22 Premier Division
St Pat's Athletic 2-0 **UCD**
E Doyle 34
M Doyle 58

13/09/19 Premier Division
St Pat's Athletic 0-0 **UCD**

23/87/19 FAI Cup second round
UCD 3-1 **St Pat's Athletic**
Y Mahdy 23 C Clifford 80
L Kerrigan 27, 46

28/06/19 Premier Division
UCD 0-1 **St Pat's Athletic**
K Toner 31

26/04/19 Premier Division
St Pat's Athletic 2-0 **UCD**
C Kelly 59
M Drennan 85

01/03/19 Premier Division
UCD 1-1 **St Pat's Athletic**
C Davis 58 M Drennan 28

NEWS

Kerrigan nominated



UCD's Liam Kerrigan was one of six nominees for the March Player of the Month award.

Kerrigan was nominated after a number of great performances and a super volleyed goal from outside the box

in Drogheda. The other nominees were Seán Roughan (Drogheda), Will Patching (Derry), Cameron Dummigan (Derry), Aidan Keena (Sligo), and Aaron Bolger from First Division Cork City.

Keena – who scored four times in the month – took the award, with Patching second and Bolger third.

Doolin appointed



Former UCD manager Paul Doolin has been appointed as manager of Portadown until the end of the Irish League season.

Doolin, 59 last month, had two spells with

the Ports in the 90s. He had a spell in charge at Athlone last year, his first Lol management job since Cork in 2009. He succeeded Matthew Tipton at Portadown, whose four years in charge ended with the club in the relegation play-off spot, six points ahead of Warrenpoint Town. After one point in his opening five games, he got his first win in a vital six-pointer against Warrenpoint, but defeat against the same side last week leaves them still in the relegation play-off spot, four points off Dungannon, whom they host on Tuesday.

Russell sacked



Doolin's successor at Athlone Town has already been sacked. Martin Russell – another former UCD manager – was appointed in November, but after

difficulties

assembling a squad in pre-season, the Town have struggled this season with one point from their opening eight games. “Unfortunately, results this season were not what Martin and the club had hoped for”, Athlone said in a statement.

Athlone have appointed their Director of Football Dermot Lennon – a former Athlone player and manager – as interim manager while they search for Russell's replacement. The Athlone job was Russell's first in the Lol since since a 10-day spell in charge at Bray Wanderers in 2018, when caretaker manager Graham Kelly's maximum 60-day term in charge without the required badges expired. He also led Limerick and UCD to First Division titles, and took Limerick to the 2014 League Cup final.

Haist's heist



Last month we had news of Johnny Haist's hat-trick for the LSL Sunday 1 side in a 7-1 win over Collinstown. This month?

Another three, this time in a 5-0 hammering of

promotion-chasing Ballymun United. It means another match-ball (inset), and puts a nine-point gap back to Willow Park in the relegation zone.



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AROUND THE WORLD

The stories you might have missed from the world's less important leagues

Kit farce clubs fined a million



Last November, the mid-table clash between AmaZulu and Marumo Gallants in South Africa's

Premiership was abandoned after just nine minutes, with the refereeing team having difficulties telling the two teams apart.

AmaZulu, the home side, wore their usual navy kit, while the visitors toggled out in dark green. The clash was commented on as the teams came out, but the game was started, only for it to quickly become apparent that the two colours were too close to be easily distinguished. After a lengthy delay, it transpired that neither side had a spare kit with them, and with the floodlights in AmaZulu's ground out action for repair work, meaning the colour contrast would only worsen as it got darker, the referee abandoned the game. The game was replayed two weeks later, ending in a 0-0 draw. Both sides were later fined 500,000 rand (about €30,000).

Who'd be a ref?



Three games in as many weeks were abandoned in the Malawi Super League last June after

protests over penalty decisions.

Silver Strikers v Red Lions was the first up – with the home side 2-0 up with ten minutes to go, they were given a penalty, but after ten minutes of protests from the away side, the referee abandoned the game. The game was awarded to Strikers – who were still fined 450,000 kwachas (about €500) for their supporters throwing stones at the away keeper – while Lions were fined €1,000 and the refereeing team were banned for the season, the official report noting that “The alleged handball did not

happen. Such conduct from referees is of great concern to us.”

The next week, Moyale Barracks were given a penalty when 2-1 down at home to Mighty Tigers – Tigers protested and eventually left the pitch. And literally the very next week, Karonga United were 1-0 down at home to Silver Strikers when they were awarded a penalty – and when protests from Strikers caused the referee to reverse her decision, Karonga walked off instead. Strikers were fined €500 for their protests, while Karonga were fined €4k.

International fraud in Iran



Iranian Pro League side Gol Gohar have lost seven points after their Gabonese

international was deemed to be ineligible.

The results of the three games Eric Bocoum played in were changed to 3-0 defeats after it was discovered he had not played four games for his country in the previous two years, as required of African players under league regulations. The side had submitted documentation showing he had, but the league subsequently ruled that the player's registration was based on “forged and bogus documentation”. The player himself was banned for three months, and has since joined Tajik champions Istiklol.

In a further blow for Gol Gohar, they were then blocked from entering the AFC Champions League, being denied a licence to replace one of the big two clubs, Persepolis (runners-up in 2018 and 2020) and Esteghlal, who were also denied a licence to compete. Éamon Zayed signed for Persepolis from Derry City in 2011 and made himself an instant cult hero by scoring a hat-trick on his debut against Esteghlal in the Teheran derby, coming on as a sub with his side 2-0 down and down to ten men to score a hat-trick in the final ten minutes.

BACK IN TIME

with Kevin Burke

Monday 13th September 2004

FAI Cup Quarter-Final Replay

Drogheda United 3-2 UCD (after extra time)

United Park

This was an FAI Cup tie with a bit of edge. The first tie the previous Friday hadn't been Drogheda manager Paul Doolin's first return to the Bowl since leaving – that had been a 2-1 win for UCD the previous November – but it did spark a media row between Doolin and his successor Pete Mahon when the *Irish Independent* interviewed both managers for its match preview. Doolin's 2½ years in charge had ended with UCD 11 points adrift at the bottom of the Premier and scratching games in the U21 league – Mahon said UCD still hadn't recovered from Doolin's time in charge, while Doolin suggested Mahon's success was largely down to the solid foundations Doolin had laid.

So after a tense 0-0 draw in Belfield Park – which extended our home unbeaten run against Drogheda to 17 games over 15 years – the scene was set for a riveting replay three days later. Kick-off was delayed 10 minutes to allow the crowd in, and they had 90 seconds to wait for the first goal, when Robbie Martin fired home from Rob McAuley's through ball. And we held that lead until the 73rd minute, when Mark Rooney – one of three former UCD players in the Drogheda line-up – set up Fabio O'Brien to send the game to extra time.

Pete Mahon was sent off for exchanging words with the ref at the end of the 90 minutes, and when O'Brien added a second four minutes into extra time, it looked like things were finally going the Premier Division side's way. But Rob McAuley equalised with a 25-yard free-kick on 114 minutes, only for a thrilling game to have one last twist when John Lester fired home a free-kick of his own three minutes later and send Drogs into the semis. There they lost to Longford – as we would ourselves two years later – while for Mahon, there was at least the consolation of promotion at the season's end.

Drogheda United – Rogers; Flanagan, O'Connor, Grey, Sandvliet; Whelan (McClare 55), Lester, Molloy, Reilly, O'Brien, Myler (Rooney 63)

UCD – D Quigley; C Kenna, R McAuley, P Sullivan (B Gannon 100), G Dicker, S Finn, A McNally (K Foley 88), M O'Donnell, W Doyle (C Kierans 82), R Martin, P McWalter

Sunday 26th August 1979

League Cup First Round

UCD 1-2 Drogheda United

Belfield Park

Our first ever game in senior football was a home League Cup tie against Drogheda United – and it got off to an awful start as former Irish international Mick Leech put the visitors 1-0 up inside the very first minute (see photo on the next page from the *Irish Press*).

But after a couple more escapes, Tony Evans scored our first goal in senior football shortly before the break when collecting a cross for Frank Boyne – making what would be his only senior appearance for the club – rounding Fergus Ferguson and slotting home past Forrester in nets.

We were level for just two minutes though when John Freaney played Metcalfe through, and he hammered home from eight yards. But the Doc was happy with our senior debut overall – “We gave away two simple goals, but I am pleased with the boys' performance”, he told the *Press* after. “We still have a number of players who have not yet returned to college after summer vacations – and quite a few of those available at the moment are not match fit. I believe we can look forward to the future with confidence.”

UCD – J McCabe; F Boyne, B Deeny (B McDonagh 45), S Doyle, P Fox, B McDonnell, T Evans, P McGovern, G Scully, F Drury (C Kelly 76), M Moran

Drogheda United – Forrester; Campbell, McDowell, Ferguson, Cameron; Metcalfe, McAuley, Freaney, Clarke; Leech, Doran (Conway 76).

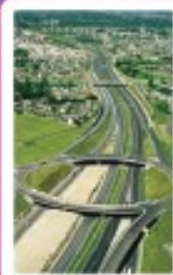


Blast from the Past *UCD v Drogheda United, 1979*



- NIGHTMARE START FOR THE "COLLEGERS" . . . as Drogheda United's Mick Leach hammers home his first goal after 60 seconds past UCD's "keeper Jim McCabe.

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ON THIS DAY

15th April 2001 – Injury time drama in Cork as a 2-2 draw leaves Cork two points off second with a game more played, while moving us out of the relegation zone on goals scored with three games to go. Both sides scored within a minute of each other in both halves. Derek Swan put UCD ahead from the spot after Eóin Bennis had been fouled, but less than a minute later current Galway manager John Caulfield set up James Mulligan for an equaliser, heading past Pat Jennings – the son of the former Northern Ireland, Spurs and Arsenal legend making his full UCD debut after two earlier sub appearances.

In the 91st minute Pat Morley looked to have sealed it with another header, but Bennis equalised two minutes later for a share of the spoils. It started a four-match unbeaten run to the end of the season as we avoided relegation by a single point.

15th April 1928 – UCD lose 5-1 against Drumcondra in Tolka Park – just another day at the office for one of the most dominant sides the LSL has ever seen. Drums dropped just two points – two draws – all season, and scored 104 goals in their 30 games. They also reached the FAI Cup Final as a non-league side – and as holders. Not surprisingly, they were elected to the League of Ireland in the summer and replaced in the LSL by their B team, who came sixth of 16.

For our part, the *Herald* reported that we had to field a couple of subs, and things got worse when Finnigan picked up an early ankle injury; he was a passenger for much of the first half, and didn't play the second, leaving the Students with ten.

Paddy Andrews scored our goal early in the second half, by which time we were already 3-0 down. Andrews had previously played with Drums, and joined Bohs after



finishing his studies. It was while at Bohs that he was capped for Ireland in a 5-3 friendly defeat against Holland in Dalymount in 1935.

At UCD, he played alongside his brother CS “Todd” Andrews, later Chairman of CIÉ and RTÉ. Todd's son, David, was Foreign Minister from 1977 to 1979 and also played for

UCD.

18th April 1999 – Clive Delaney's first goals for UCD earn a vital 2-1 home win over Europe-chasing Derry, a result made more impressive by having to play with ten men for 70 minutes following keeper Barry Ryan's controversial dismissal for handball, with newspaper reports and manager Theo Dunne certain the ball hit Ryan's chest, not his hands.

We were already 1-0 up by that stage, and Clive made it 2-0 before half-time. Despite dominating possession, Derry could only muster a late consolation through Michael McHugh, and would miss out on Europe by two points.

18th April 1964 – B O'Rourke's goal earns a 1-1 draw away to TEK United as UCD end what remains the only season of the Leinster Senior League Division 1 South.

TEK were one of seven teams added to the LSL as it increased from 17 to 24 teams, forming two groups of 12. Despite this meaning fewer games, the LSL's typical fixture chaos meant that our last game (against Jacobs) was left unplayed, but TEK still had five games remaining at this stage. They played two of them, by which time Transport – Lol members three years earlier – couldn't be caught, and so their other games were unplayed.

But they were to win the LSL the following season, which was one division of 16 teams, two of whom withdrew before Christmas.



UCD AFC ANNOUNCE CHARITY PARTNER

UCD AFC are delighted to announce JIGSAW as our new charity partners in collaboration with the UCD Students' Union.

The partnership will see JIGSAW displayed on the front of our home kit, along with the launch of new club sponsorship packages where 50% of all sponsorship associated with the collaboration with UCDSU will be donated by the club to JIGSAW in support of the critical services they offer to ensure that every young person's mental health is valued and supported. In addition to the sponsorship packages, a portion of all ticket sales for the remainder of the season will be donated by the club to JIGSAW.

"We are really excited by this partnership and have been very impressed by the work that JIGSAW does", said UCD club secretary Richard Shakespeare. "The supports and services that they provide are phenomenal and extremely important to the mental health of young people across the country. The recent challenges presented by Covid-19 have further highlighted mental health and the affect it has on every aspect of a person's life. We believe this partnership, and the exposure that it will bring, will help to raise further awareness, while also helping to provide vital funds to support the great work that JIGSAW does."

"We are so delighted to be partnering with UCD SU and UCD AFC for the coming season", said Justin McDermott, Jigsaw's Fundraising Manager. "It is an incredible honour for us and we have no doubt it will have a positive impact on the work we do to support the mental health and wellbeing of young people. We are looking forward to working with UCD SU, all the coaching staff and players in UCD AFC to raise awareness and vital funds to better support the mental health of our young people".



Ruairí Power, the UCD SU President, added "Being a campus that is fully supportive of the mental health of students and young people is an aspiration shared by everyone in the UCD community. This new partnership between UCD AFC and JIGSAW epitomises this perfectly and we encourage all students and staff to get behind it."

About JIGSAW (www.jigsaw.ie)

JIGSAW offers mental health advice and support, online and in-person, to young people across Ireland, aged 12-25 years old. JIGSAW's vision is to make sure that every young person's mental health is valued and supported. Mental health can affect every aspect of a young person's life, with every young person needing the support that's right for them, whatever they are going through.

Their new strategy has two main goals: Achieve better mental health outcomes for young people through services, mental health promotion, public awareness, and advocacy.

Build a high-performing organisation fit for the future through people, technology, funding, evidence.

We would like to thank Sportsfile for their generosity in support of the initiative and the launch event.

LAST TIME OUT

Extratime.ie report on a deserved point against last year's Cup finalists

A Sam Todd equaliser earned UCD a deserved point as they played out an entertaining 1-1 draw with Bohemians at a sunny UCD Bowl.

Todd rose highest midway through the second half to open the Students' goalscoring account at home for the season after Promise Omochere had given Keith Long's charges an early first half lead.

Andy Myler's side remain unbeaten in Belfield while Bohs' wait for an away win goes on and their winless run extends to four league games.

Despite an entertaining first half, the opening goal arrived in calamitous circumstances. UCD stopper Lorcan Healy was hesitant over what seemed a routine cross allowing Omochere to steal a march and turn the ball home from close range.

That opened the gates for a pulsating first-half with Omochere, Stephen Mallon and Dawson Devoy causing the home side countless problems. Devoy struck the post from long range while Mallon forced a decent save out of Healy who atoned for his earlier error.

The UCD frontman Colm Whelan should have pulled the Students level but despite having three attempts at James Talbot's goal he was unable to find the net.

A quick counter-attack saw Whelan played in behind and after he was denied by a combination of Talbot and debutant Sam Packham, he skied his third effort over the bar.

Winger Liam Kerrigan was a constant thorn in Bohs' side and he was unlucky not to level

affairs after a mazy run left Max Murphy and Ciarán Kelly for dead before Talbot narrowed the angle.

The visitors were lively in the first half but a much more turgid side emerged from the half-time dressing room as UCD put Bohemians to the sword early on.

Dylan Duffy stung the palms of Talbot in what was the best of a series of long-range attempts from the hosts.

Whelan was denied his first goal of the season for the fourth time after he pounced on Kelly's error but was denied by Talbot in

what was becoming a personal battle between the pair.

Bohs were unlucky not to extend the lead but Todd was the hero on the line for the College as he turned Mallon's goal-bound header over the bar.

Moments later he met Kerrigan's corner unmarked to fire a low header past Talbot to bring the Students level.

The closing stages were end to end as both sides pushed for a winner. Omochere will feel he should have won it for the Dalymount side but he could only head Jordan Flores' free-kick over the bar from point-blank range.

It wasn't to be Whelan's evening either and he was denied a fantastic individual goal after his amazing run produced a stunning save from Talbot to turn his curling effort around the post.

Boos rang out from the large Bohs faithful at the final whistle with the frustration of dropping six points from winning positions clear.



BEST SHOTS

The best March shots from UCD club photographer Arnold Byrne and from Sportsfile





Previous page top to bottom –
UCD-coloured sky against Derry;
taking a corner into the sun
against Bohs

This page top to bottom –
Lorcan Healy dazzles in another
90s retro keeper's top; no
sprinkler malfunctions this time
before the Derry game; goal
celebrations as UCD's U15s
hammer Drogheda 6-2



UCD AFC 2022 season stats

Date	Opponents	Comp	H/A	Venue	Att	Res									
18/02/22	Shamrock Rovers	Lge	A	Tallaght Stadium	5173	0-3	082	✓	0.76	0.76					
35/03/22	Finn Harps	Lge	H	UCD Bowl	624	0-0	✓	✓	0.54	0.54					0.82
28/02/22	Shelbourne	Lge	H	UCD Bowl	915	0-0	✓	✓	0.62	0.62					0.82
04/03/22	Drogheda United	Lge	A	Head in the Game Park	2024	2-4	✓	✓	0.46	0.46	0.76				0.76
14/03/22	Bohemians	Lge	A	Richmond Park	2627	0-2	✓	✓	0.74	0.74	0.84				0.84
18/03/22	Bohemians	Lge	H	UCD Bowl	1708	1-1	✓	✓	0.73	0.73	0.73				0.73
01/04/22	Dundalk	Lge	A	Oriel Park	2053	0-2	✓	✓	0.73	0.73	0.73				0.73
04/04/22	Derry City	Lge	H	UCD Bowl	1865	2-2	✓	✓	0.73	0.73	0.73				0.73
09/04/22	Sligo Rovers	Lge	A	The Showgrounds	1865	2-2	✓	✓	0.73	0.73	0.73				0.73
15/04/22	Drogheda United	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.83
18/04/22	Derry City	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.83
22/04/22	Derry City	Lge	A	Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium			✓	✓							0.90
29/04/22	Bohemians	Lge	A	Dobsonville Park			✓	✓							0.90
06/05/22	Dundalk	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
13/05/22	Finn Harps	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
19/05/22	Shamrock Rovers	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
23/05/22	Shelbourne	Lge	A	Tolka Park			✓	✓							0.90
27/05/22	Sligo Rovers	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
10/06/22	Drogheda United	Lge	A	Head in the Game Park			✓	✓							0.90
17/06/22	St Patrick's Athletic	Lge	A	Richmond Park			✓	✓							0.90
24/06/22	Derry City	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
01/07/22	Dundalk	Lge	A	Oriel Park			✓	✓							0.90
08/07/22	Bohemians	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
16/07/22	Sligo Rovers	Lge	A	The Showgrounds			✓	✓							0.90
22/07/22	Shelbourne	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
31/07/22															
05/08/22	Shamrock Rovers	Lge	A	Tallaght Stadium			✓	✓							0.90
12/08/22	Finn Harps	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
19/08/22	St Patrick's Athletic	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
28/08/22															
02/09/22	Derry City	Lge	A	Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium			✓	✓							0.90
09/09/22	Dundalk	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
18/09/22															
30/09/22	Bohemians	Lge	A	Dobsonville Park			✓	✓							0.90
07/10/22	Sligo Rovers	Lge	H	The Showgrounds			✓	✓							0.90
14/10/22	Shelbourne	Lge	A	Tolka Park			✓	✓							0.90
16/10/22															
21/10/22	Drogheda United	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
28/10/22	Finn Harps	Lge	A	Finn Park			✓	✓							0.90
04/11/22	Shamrock Rovers	Lge	H	UCD Bowl			✓	✓							0.90
13/11/22															

2022 UCD appearances/goals - 9/0 0/0 0/0 4/0 0/0 0/0 6/0 6/0 9/1 3/0 0/0 0/0 9/0 0/0 6/0 3/0 6/0 9/1 5/0 0/0 9/1
 Career UCD appearances - 60 0 35 0 4 52 20 2 6 26 92 6 0 42 8 34 19 86 26 60 65 0 34 9 4 17 72 21 0 60 60 2 0 42
 Career UCD goals - 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 3 3 1 7 0 0 0 1 25 2 0 0 42

Premier Division table								Most senior goals for UCD			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
1 Derry City	9	7	2	0	15	6	23	Mick O'Byrne	1993-01	87	
2 Shamrock Rovers	9	5	2	2	15	7	17	Darren O'Brien	1986-97	70	
3 St Patrick's Athletic	9	4	2	3	11	6	14	Robbie Griffin	1990-03	52	
4 Sligo Rovers	9	3	4	2	12	8	13	Robbie Martin	2000-05	43	
5 Dundalk	9	2	6	1	10	6	12	Colm Whelan	2020-	42	
6 Bohemians	9	2	5	2	9	9	11	Gary O'Neill	2015-19	40	
7 Shelbourne	9	2	3	4	6	11	9	Dave McMillan	2008-13	40	
8 Drogheda United	9	2	3	4	10	16	9	Jason Sherlock	1994-98	39	
9 Finn Harps	9	1	3	5	8	16	6	Georgie Kelly	2016-18	39	
10 UCD	9	0	4	5	5	16	4	Yoyo Mahdy	2017-20	37	
								P Cullen (88-92), T McDonnell (93-07)		35	
First Division table								Most senior appearances for UCD			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
1 Cork City	8	6	1	1	19	2	19	Ciarán Kavanagh	1990-01	383	
2 Galway United	8	5	2	1	13	8	17	Tony McDonnell	1993-07	361	
3 Longford Town	7	4	2	1	11	4	14	Alan Mahon	1997-08	306	
4 Waterford	8	4	2	2	16	10	14	Alan McNally	1999-08	275	
5 Treaty United	7	3	2	2	10	8	11	Robbie Griffin	1990-03	265	
6 Bray Wanderers	8	2	3	3	5	12	9	Mick O'Byrne	1993-01	254	
7 Wexford	8	2	2	4	8	15	8	Éamon McLoughlin	1994-01	249	
8 Cobh Ramblers	8	1	1	6	5	15	4	Darren O'Brien	1986-97	249	
9 Athlone Town	8	0	1	7	8	21	1	Mick O'Donnell	1996-05	240	
								Rob McAuley	1996-04	237	
								Conor Timmons	1989-97	224	

This week's Premier Division fixtures		Premier Division goal charts	
<i>15th April</i> Bohemians v Finn Harps Derry City v Shelbourne Dundalk v Sligo Rovers Shamrock Rovers v St Patrick's Athletic		5 - Aidan Keena (Sligo), Will Patching (Derry)	
<i>18th April -</i> Drogheda United v Derry City Finn Harps v Sligo Rovers Shamrock Rovers v Dundalk Shelbourne v Bohemians		4 - Steven Bradley (Dundalk), Gary Burke (Rovers), Jamie McGonigle (Derry)	
		3 - Pat Hoban (Dundalk), Andy Lyons (Rovers), Promise Omochere (Bohs), Dean Williams (Drogheda)	
		2 - 12 players, incl Sam Todd (UCD) and <i>Chris Lyons</i> (Drogheda)	
This week's First Division fixtures		First Division goal charts	
<i>15th April</i> Athlone Town v Treaty United Cork City v Bray Wanderers Waterford v Galway United Wexford v Cobh Ramblers		4 - Barry Coffey, Ruairi Keating (both Cork), Phoenix Patterson, Junior Quitirna (both Waterford), Enda Curran (Treaty), Stephen Walsh (Galway)	
<i>18th April -</i> Bray Wanderers v Longford Town Cobh Ramblers v Athlone Town Treaty United v Wexford Waterford v Cork City		3 - Dylan McGlade, Cian Murphy (both Cork), Louis Britton (Waterford), 2 - 13 players, including <i>Dimmy Corcoran</i> (Wexford) and <i>Sam Verdon</i> (Longford)	

HALF TIME QUIZ

Ten questions on the upcoming World Cup

1. Which match will open the 2022 World Cup?
2. Who headed the Qatari World Cup bid, and was later banned from FIFA activities for life and was central to a 2014 Sunday Times exposé into bribery during the bid process?
3. Which country was runner-up to Qatar in the bidding for the tournament?
4. Five teams played in the 2014 finals, missed out on 2018, but are back for 2022. Name any three.
5. Which two 2018 semi-finalists have been drawn in the same group this time?
6. How many finalists had yet to be decided when the draw was made?
7. Brazil, Serbia and Switzerland have been drawn in the same group for the second tournament in a row. Cameroon fill out the group this time; who did they meet last time?
8. On what date is the World Cup Final? We'll allow a week either way.
9. Which host stadium is named after Qatar's international dialling code?
10. Which World Cup icon is pictured below conducting the finals draw? Between 1986 and 2002, he managed five different nations at World Cup finals.



1. Qatar v Ecuador. 2. Mohammed bin Hammam. 3. The United States. 4. Holland, Ecuador, Ghana, Cameroon and the USA. 5. Belgium and Croatia. 6. Three. 7. Costa Rica. 8. 18th December. 9. Stadium 974. 10. Bora Milutinovic.

QUIZ ANSWERS

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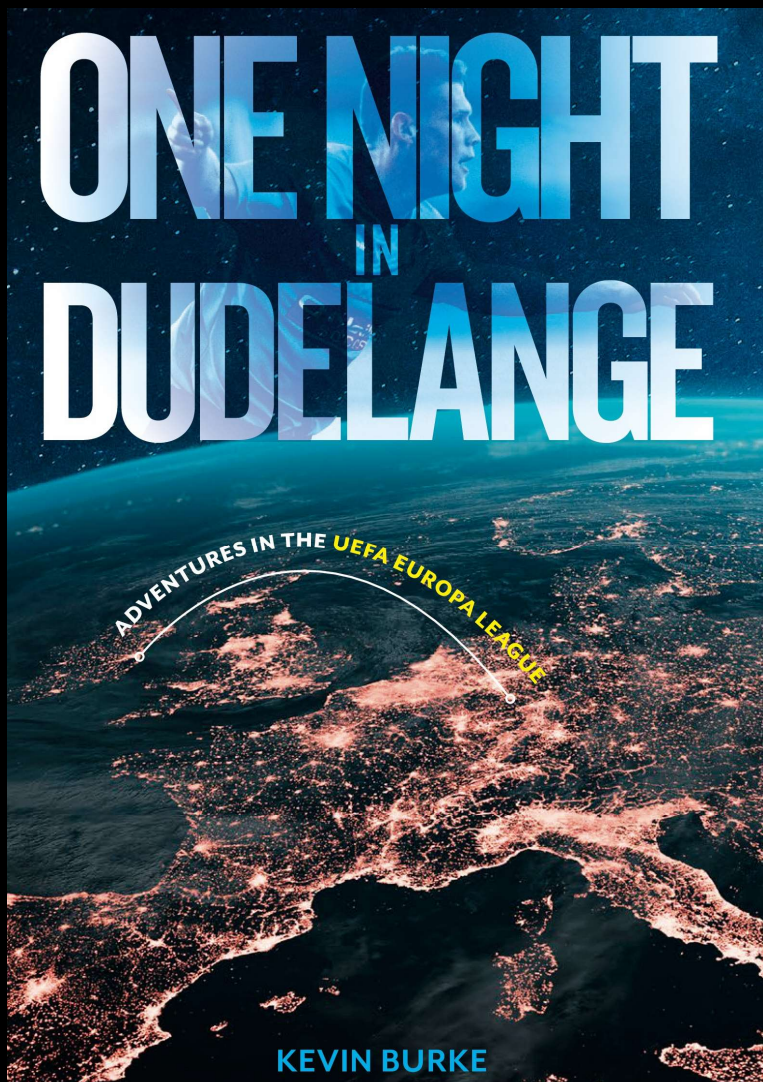
The Irish Independent

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STUDENT TILL I GRADUATE

A view from the far side

Yes, the day has come. Maybe it was inevitable. Maybe we should have seen it coming? Or is that the natural nostalgia that comes when a long-awaited and never predicted event actually comes to fruition? The wait. The anticipation. Could it? Would it? Should it?

Today is that day. Today is the day that STIG praises the FAI. A moment's pause and remembrance for those that went before.

The days of selling STIG outside the gates. The curiously imprecise articles about nothing. The hints that left you wondering. The in-jokes. The oblique references. All can now rest softly and gently. It's over.

It is Mayo's All Ireland, Jimmy White's Crucible and Greg Norman's Augusta all in one. A long-standing curse defeated. Gone. But not forgotten.

We reflect. A silent prayer hushes across Belfield. They did not die in vain.

So what is this praise? Half-hearted? Back-handed? Smart-assed? Not for me, Clive. No, this is genuine. This is real. For the purpose of this column, we are leaving it all behind. The past is a distant relative and we are embracing the moment.

Let's talk about the national question.....a question that has caused terror in many halls on this island. But right now, there is a

momentum behind our national soccer team. There is a buzz. It feels, and we are emphasising the feel, upward and positive and radiant and fun and young and quick and engaged and interesting and everyone is smiling.

Somebody else somewhere else can describe the circumstances in which Mr Kenny ended up being Ireland manager, but



by any measure, he is doing well. We at STIG have for many years been sceptical of the alleged importance of managers – we always struggled to figure how much is the manager and how much the players. How can we possibly rate a manager who inherits the GOAT and Iniesta and Xavi? We can never really know.

Are there good managers? Of course. Are there rubbish managers? Of course. Is there a massive grey area in

the middle? Totally.

Mr Kenny has clearly influenced the style of play and has generated performances that, per the eye test, exceed the natural ability of this group of players. Separate debate for another day if, say, Sam Allardyce would get the same performances. We simply will never know.

However, this appointment is working. He is getting performances out of the players –

the players seem to enjoy playing for the team and the results are half decent.

Now, let's all relax. We are not going to win anything anytime soon. But this is good and it should be welcomed. It is working. Let's not screw it up.

Filthy lucre being fumbled in greasy tills. It is vulgar but we need to go there. The contract. It is done. And we at STIG welcome it. It was the right thing at the right time, in our view.

However, Twitter is no place to debate this stuff. Mr Kenny is not getting a new contract because we all feel good. He is not getting a new contract because we drew against some second rate outfit. This is business. And it is not always nice.

At this level, we would like to think that managers do not get contracts because they did well – we would like to think that smart men and women sit down and think about contracts because of what that manager is going to be able to do in the next term. Yes, that assessment is partially formed by past results, but this is about the future.

And here is where we give the FAI credit.

With all respect to Mr Kenny, he is not yet a candidate for top European or Premier

League jobs. That might change in time. It is not especially nice to say it, but at this level, the salary paid is partially a reflection of the competition. If Ireland could get Klopp, we would need to match the salary he would be able to command from a top club.

That is not where we are right now – but as of right now, he is doing a really good job for us and has been given a new contract. Good. Again with all respect to Mr Kenny, there is going to be a time when he is no longer Ireland manager. With all of the evidence we have to date, he will be leaving the shop in a much better place than how he found it. The people in charge need to take a long-term view and from everything we have seen and read, this has been handled well. Mr Kenny, by all accounts, is well paid, with qualification bonuses. We very much hope that he feels that the contract presents him with all of the right incentives to continue to innovate and to challenge himself and the players.

This is working. It has not always been working in the past. But this feels like it is moving in the right direction.

Let's not screw it up.



A person is shown from the back, wearing a black quilted jacket. A mesh bag is slung over their shoulder, containing several soccer balls. One ball in the foreground is orange and blue with the Umbro logo. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

OUR GAME IS ON THE BALL



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CANADA BACK IN THE BIG TIME

Canada are at the World Cup for only the second time – we look back at the UCD connections that led them to Mexico '86

Of the countries who've qualified for the 2022 World Cup so far – and excluding debutants Qatar – none have waited as long to return to the finals or appeared at them so few times as Canada. Their first qualification in 36 years was unexpected – they were the seventh ranked of the eight teams in the final group stage, and one of three teams who had not been given a bye straight through to it. Instead, they started off their World Cup campaign in a group containing Suriname, Bermuda, Aruba and the Cayman Islands. But once in the final stage – which they hadn't reached since 1998 – they stormed through it, topping the pile easing up, losing two of their last three games. It's a squad with few stars – Alphonso Davies of Bayern is the only big name, and their most recent squad included players from Reading, Moirense, Panetolikos, and Denize of the Belgian second tier. Kris Twardek of Bohs was in their 60-man preliminary squad for the CONCACAF Gold Cup last year.

It's not all that dissimilar to the 1986 squad. Then, there was no-one of the calibre of Davies, and football was more localised so only six of the squad played outside the US or Canada, but they also played at lesser lights like La Chaux-de-Fonds, Seraing and Glentoran. It included two players with Tacoma Stars' professional indoor six-a-side team. One of those, Dave Norman, had been playing for UCD just three years earlier. It marked the first time a player had gone from UCD to the World Cup – and there could have been more.

UCD's Canadian connection starts in the autumn of 1980. We were in our second season in senior football, having finishing 15th in our debut season. Johnny Giles had recently left his role as Ireland player-

manager, but was still player-manager at Shamrock Rovers when he also took on the manager's job at Vancouver Whitecaps in the NASL – the Canadian side's season more or less coincided with pre-season in the Lol. And as if that wasn't enough, he was a consultant to our scholarship scheme as well, which had gotten off the ground the previous season with Keith Dignam – father of current UCD first-teamer Mark and U19 player Louis – the first recipient.

The *Irish Independent* of 3rd September 1980 carried details of our second scholarship recipient – former Tempogue College pupil Aidan Reynolds – and added that Vancouver Whitecaps were sending four of their players over to study in UCD as well, covering the costs of their scholarships. The Canadians were expected to arrive on Tuesday and “should boost UCD's resources considerably”. Football reporting priorities in Irish newspapers have changed somewhat since!

A week later, the transfer coup was complete – UCD unveiled defender Shaun Lowther (18, who had had a trial with Manchester United the previous season) strikers Brent Barling and Rolston Dunlop (both 19), and midfielder Dave Norman (18). A fifth player, Gerry Gray (19), was expected to join in a month's time. “All the new players, incidentally, will be enrolling for academic courses at the college, thus ensuring that they fulfil the qualification requirements”, the *Irish Press* added, referring to the college's rules requiring college teams to be composed entirely of college students. Another Whitecaps player, Paul Nelson, signed for Rovers.

The quartet didn't arrive in time for our 3-0 League Cup defeat against Drogheda or our opening league game, a 4-0 defeat against

reigning champions Limerick United – a great boost for Limerick ahead of their midweek European Cup game against Real Madrid in Lansdowne Road – but all bar Norman started the following week against Athlone in St Mel’s; the novelty of the signings featured prominently in match previews. Dunlop gave us the lead against the run of play on the half hour, but Athlone equalised on 70 minutes and scored three times in the last ten minutes, and went on to win the title.

But we got immediate revenge – we faced Athlone four days later in the Leinster Senior Cup, and Dunlop scored twice more as we won 4-3, despite Athlone missing two first-half penalties. Three days later, Brent Barling scored his first goal as we beat Home Farm 3-0, and people were taking notice. “Quite the most astonishing thing to happen in League of Ireland football since the start of the season has been the transformation of UCD in the last couple of weeks”, said the *Indo* in a half-page feature after our win over Home Farm (from which the below photo comes). “Up to the arrival of the Canadians, UCD were having a pretty dismal time and most experts predicted that they would finish bottom of the league.

Now, following 4-3 and 3-0 defeats of Athlone Town and Home Farm in their last two matches, those predictions are beginning to look a little foolish.”

Indeed we had a Canadian on the scoresheet in each of their first seven games – by which time Dave Norman had finally joined the line-up after three months out with injury – and they helped us to five wins in those games. This was a financial boost for the players, who were paid on a pure performance basis, funded by sponsors – £20 for a team win, £10 for a draw, and nothing for a defeat. They’d each earned £100 in a month – not bad for a college student in 1980.

The Whitecaps’ Club President Tony Waiters was kept updated on his players by telex after each game, but in October he flew into Dublin to see the players in action for himself. The *Evening Press* reported he was highly complimentary of the set-up and added that “the importance of the UCD relationship cannot be overstressed”. From 1982, NASL rules were changing to require each team to play four domestic players in each game, and so the side that could boast Ruud Krol and Trevor Whymark, and who had spent a huge £300k bringing



Three of UCD's young Canadian soccer imports. From left: Shaun Lowther, Bren Barling and Dave Norman.

Ray Hankin in from Leeds United, needed the UCD link to give their best young players first-team exposure in advance of that season. More loan signings were expected over the coming years.

But in October 1980, a threat emerged from Burnley. The Claret's Chairman, Bob Lord, had been appointed Secretary of the International League Board (ILB) and wanted to end all loan transfers between the NASL and the Irish, English and Scottish leagues. These transfers were more common to the NASL than from it – many players on this side of the Atlantic moved Stateside in pre-season to make a few extra quid, but it created problems for top Scottish and English clubs, who were concerned about the increased risk of injury or burn-out from playing through pre-season. Lol sides were more understanding of a potential financial bonus for part-time players.

To entice the Lol to ban such transfers, the re-introduction of inter-league games between the Lol, the Scottish League, and the English League was proposed. The *Irish Press* scoffed at this suggestion – fixture congestion would mean that any English League side would be far from full strength, it said, adding that when the Lol and the Scottish League had met for the first time in a decade the previous year, less than a thousand people had attended. The ILB threatened the Lol with suspension if it didn't comply – "But one wonders what are the benefits to be derived from membership of this antiquated body?" the *Press* said.

"One club who could be hit by such a move are UCD", it added, referencing the Canadians. "The fact that the players are all students pursuing academic qualifications while playing for UCD may work in their favour. It would be a shame if their progressive policy would be destroyed by a decision introduced primarily to prevent players from this side of the

Atlantic making an easy summer's earnings in America." Fortunately for UCD, nothing came of the proposal – in large part due to the Doc's opposition – and the next summer a young Carlisle United forward called Peter Beardsley moved on short-term loan to Vancouver, as he would the next two summers as well. The ILB plodded on until disbanding in 2005.

In November 1980, the transfer of Gerry Gray fell through. Canada had knocked the US out of World Cup qualifying, and Gray was establishing himself as a key player in the side. In their final first-stage qualifier against Mexico in front of 108,000 fans at the legendary Azteca Stadium, Atletico Madrid's Hugo Sanchez gave the home side the lead, but Gray struck a late free-kick to earn Canada a 1-1 draw. Instead of joining UCD on scholarship, he was now an important Whitecaps first-teamer.

In December, Dunlop scored a brace as we beat Shamrock Rovers 3-2 in the Leinster Senior Cup semi-final to reach the final for the first time in our 85-year history. "Johnny Giles may yet regret the day that he spotted the Canadian Ralston Dunlop and recommended him to UCD, because it was the 19-year-old gangling forward who scored two magnificent second half goals that ended Shamrock Rovers' interest in the Leinster Senior Cup semi-final at Tolka Park last night", said the *Press*. For Dunlop, it was 10 goals in 14 games. He wouldn't score again for the rest of the season.

On New Year's Day 1981, a record Belfield Park crowd – the gate topping £800 – turned up to see our return game against Athlone Town. But this time, Dunlop was the only Canadian in the team, with the other three having returned to Canada for Christmas holidays. We lost 2-1. We did win the Collingwood later that month, but though the Canadians were back from holidays, the terms of the loan deal with Whitecaps meant they were ineligible – it was league and Cup games only.

And they were ineligible too in March when the new dressing rooms and main stand in Belfield Park were opened with a prestige friendly – UCD v Vancouver Whitecaps, of course. Lowther, Norman and Barling all played for Whitecaps, as did Welsh captain Terry Yorath (pictured shooting below from the *Press* match report), Scottish legend Peter Lorimer, Irish international Pierce O’Leary (brother of Dave) and former Scottish international keeper Dave Harvey, just back from helping Drogheda United out on an emergency loan. UCD had Shamrock Rovers duo Liam Buckley (the current Sligo manager, who signed for Whitecaps shortly after the game), Harry Kenny (the former Bray and St Pat’s manager) and Whitecaps’ English winger Peter Devine guesting. Another Irish international, Jimmy Holmes, opened the scoring for the visitors, but Martin Moran missed a penalty, Ken O’Doherty hit the bar and then equalised in the last minute to earn a highly respectable draw. The Canadians stayed in Dublin to play three more league games before returning to Canada three games from the end of the season, having helped us up to 12th in the table. Now back in pre-season, Norman scored the only goal of the game in a friendly against New York Cosmos, one of the most expensive teams in the world.

The deal was renewed for the following season – Lowther and Norman returned in September ‘81, and defender Karl Shearer and forward Sammy Saundh joined them. There

was almost another sensational Stateside signing for UCD when we made a bid for Ireland winger Steve Heighway, who had signed for Minnesota Kicks from Liverpool earlier in the year. He had just played in Ireland’s 2-2 draw in Amsterdam, but with the NASL season over and a month to go until our vital final qualifier against France, the Doc lined up a backer to sponsor Heighway coming to UCD to keep match fitness up in between the two games. “As Steve Heighway is a University graduate [of Liverpool University, where he studied economics] we would not be bending any College rules by availing of his services if Minnesota Kicks agree”, the Doc told the *Indo*. Heighway turned the deal down for family reasons – it would mean being away from his family in Minnesota all that time. He was duly dropped from the squad against France for lack of match fitness, and never played for Ireland again.

UCD started the 81/82 season with eight defeats, but the Canadians again boosted things, and once all four were united in the line-up, we beat Shels to kick-start a run of form which saw just five defeats in 17. Saundh was described as “sensational” as Galway stole all four points from Belfield – this being the experimental 4-3-2-1 points



system, with a bonus point for away wins and draws.

In November, Canada played the Hex – the final stage of 1982 World Cup qualifying. They were favourites to progress even though Honduras hosted all the games – the World Cup was extending to 24 teams, so there was an extra qualifying spot – but needing a win against Cuba in their last game to qualify, they could only draw 2-2. Honduras and El Salvador (who scored two goals in their five games) qualified instead. Canada didn't play another game for nearly two years.

At UCD, there was a touch of second season syndrome, and in February '82 the Doc "dropped a bombshell" (*Evening Press*) by releasing the four Canadians with immediate effect. The players were due to stay another month, but they had become unsettled and with Giles unable to help matters and with the FAI Cup quarter-final draw looming, the Doc decided to release the players immediately rather than risk the possibility of drawing Rovers in the Cup and then having to face the suggestion that Giles had recalled the players to benefit Rovers in the Cup. In the event, we drew Bohs instead.

82/83 was the third and final season of the agreement. Dave Norman was back, joined by Barry Deardon and – for a brief spell in the new year – Leeds legend Peter Lorimer. But Deardon only played five games, Lorimer four, and Norman, increasingly playing his way into Whitecaps' first-team plans, finished up in January 1983. His three years at Belfield saw him play 50 games, scoring 9 times.

In December '83, Shaun Lowther made his international debut against Honduras, and three days later Norman made his bow against the same side. Norman was linked with a return to UCD in 1984 when the NASL and all its clubs (including the Whitecaps) folded, but instead signed for Tacoma Stars in the Major Indoor Soccer

League. He scored his only international goal in a friendly against Ghana in 1985, and was a regular throughout Canada's 1986 qualifiers, including the final match as Canada put the ghosts of '82 to bed, beating Honduras 2-1 to qualify for their first ever World Cup. He played all three games in Mexico as Canada lost to France, Hungary and the USSR without scoring. And after two years without a cap, Gerry Gray was recalled to the squad two months before the World Cup, scored in a warm-up friendly against Wales, and played in two of the finals games. He ended his career with 35 caps between 1980 and 1991. Lowther played two qualifiers, but earned the last of his 14 caps in 1985 and missed out on the World Cup squad.

Norman's international career was hit in September 1986, however, when he was convicted of match-rigging in an invitational tournament in Singapore. Five Canadian players accepted a \$100k bribe to throw the semi-final against North Korea, which they duly lost 2-0. One of the five got cold feet, gave his share to the other four, but also let the story out. After an investigation, all four players were given a one-year global ban from football. Norman didn't play for Canada for another six years, but even with this hiatus, he still amassed 49 caps. The other players – including 21-year-old Igor Vrablic, already the national team's record goalscorer with 12, including three goals in 1986 qualifying and four goals at the Singapore tournament – never played for Canada again. With Mexico banned from Italia 90, Canada had a great chance to return to the global stage, but without their banned players, they were knocked out by Guatemala in the qualifying round. The side went into an international slide which has only now been arrested.

Canada won't have a 36-year wait for their next appearance of course – along with the US and Mexico, they're co-hosts of the 2026 tournament.

MOUNT MERRION UPDATE

Andrew Dempsey with all the news from Deerpark

It has been a busy few weeks for Mount Merrion Youths FC, with plenty going on around the club.

Over the Easter weekend, over 100 players and a dedicated group of coaches and volunteers are off to Spain to play in the Barcelona Cup, competing against Europe's elite from U10 to U14 level.

The club's 'Little Kickers' programme has started for kids aged 2-4, while the Academy will start up again after the Easter weekend, running to the end of June for 5-7 year-olds.

There are also six teams from U8 to U14 level who are competing well in the top leagues in the DDSL, emphasising the clear pathway to the U14 UCD/MMYFC squad in the National League.

The club has invested in a VEO camera, which records games for our various teams, and analysis is provided to help development.

We would also like to congratulate Cian McGuinness and Shane Lauritsch, who have been appointed as manager and coach for the U14 LOI team. Both previously coached with the club's schoolboy section.

Meanwhile, the UCD/MMYFC U15 side have continued their superb start to their U15 National League campaign, winning four of their first five league games.

Heading into a break, Shane Fox's side concluded the first part of their season with an impressive 2-1 win away to Bray Wanderers in Enniskerry. Goals from Cillian Petcher and Cian Nolan helped the UCD/MMYFC U15s to their win.

That was after a brilliant start to the year, which saw the Sky Blues record wins against Shamrock Rovers, Carlow-Kilkenny and Drogheda United.

Of those wins, a 3-0 win away to Rovers was the highlight, with Cillian Petcher, Adam Farrell and Cian Nolan all netting.

The U15s also enjoyed a very enjoyable visit to Sunderland, where they trained and played against Sunderland's academy team at their age group.

Also taking in a visit to South Shields FC, the 15s then returned to league action on that Sunday evening, just hours after returning home. Fortunately, they won that game, 2-0 against Carlow-Kilkenny.



EA Sports U19 Lol Group A		
Team	P	Pts
UCD	6	18
Galway United	6	13
Cork City	6	10
Cobh Ramblers	6	9
St Patrick's Athletic	4	7
Waterford	5	7
Bray Wanderers	5	6
Kerry	6	6
Treaty United	6	6
Wexford	6	0

EA Sports U17 Lol Group B		
Team	P	Pts
St Patrick's Athletic	3	9
UCD	4	9
Athlone Town	4	7
Longford Town	3	3
Bohemians	3	1
Klub Kildare	3	0

EA Sports U15 Lol Group C		
Team	P	Pts
UCD	5	13
Shamrock Rovers	5	12
Shelbourne	9	12
Bray Wanderers	5	4
Carlow-Kilkenny	5	3
Drogheda United	5	3

EA Sports U14 Lol Group D		
Team	P	Pts
Shamrock Rovers	8	22
UCD	7	13
Carlow-Kilkenny	7	6
Klub Kildare	8	7
Wexford	8	6

BACK IN TIME

with Kevin Burke

Friday 9th May 2008

eircom League of Ireland Premier Division

St Patrick's Athletic 0-0 UCD

Richmond Park

St Pat's made a storming start to the 2008 season, winning eight of their first nine games to send them six points clear, but they came unstuck against a dogged UCD in round 10. In a game of few chances, Keith Fahey had a goal ruled out 15 minutes from the end, Ryan Guy blazed over and Gary O'Neill shot straight at Matt Gregg, but UCD defended well and deserved the point at the end.

It meant that of the previous 34 league games between the two sides – going back to 1996 – 22 had ended in draws. 12 of those were 0-0s, including a run of 9 0-0s in 16 games in the first half of the 00s. This game was one of the more typically dull 0-0s that were played out in that decade. Pat's blew their early title lead fairly spectacularly – they had dropped four points in the first ten games of the season, but Bohs would drop the same amount their last 24 games, and by the end of the season Pat's were a huge 19 points behind the Gypsies. UCD, by contrast, only scored 12 times in the remaining 23 games of the season and were relegated.

For Pat's, Keith Fahey made his Ireland debut two years later and was named in our Euro 2012 squad before withdrawing through injury. Barry Ryan played more senior games for UCD (194) than any other keeper, while six of the UCD side would later play for Pat's – Ian Bermingham (who's still at Pat's), Conor Kenna, Brian Shortall, Greg Bolger, Paul Byrne and Derek Doyle.

Both managers – Pete Mahon and Johnny McDonnell – left their respective clubs at the end of the season. Mahon was replaced by former Pat's favourite Martin Russell, while McDonnell was replaced by former Irish international Jeff Kenna, who lasted nine months before being sacked and replaced by Mahon.

St Patrick's Athletic – Ryan; Haverty, Brennan, Paisley, Byrne; Kirby (Ryan 64), Fahey, Dempsey, Guy; O'Neill, Quigley

UCD – M Gregg; A Mahon, I Bermingham, C Kenna, B Shortall (G Bolger 45); B King, R Finn (T Purcell 65), A McNally, P McWalter, P Byrne; D Doyle (S Harding 77)

Saturday 14th February 1948 Leinster Senior League Division 1

UCD 0-4 St Patrick's Athletic

Belfield

For our first meeting with the Saints, you have to go back a lot further than our debut Lol season in 1979. In fact, it came in 1948 – which was Pat's second season in the LSL, but due to a mix of the National Harvest Emergency (see our September 2021 issue) and a severe winter, neither of our league games that year went ahead. So it wasn't until our second season in the same division that we actually met.

We got off to a pretty bad start – a penalty for "hands", as handball was commonly called then, put us 1-0 down midway through the first half, and then we lost a defender to injury in trying to prevent Pat's second goal; he continued as a passenger but retired from play in the second half. Two more goals in the second half rounded off a 4-0 win – McCormack, O'Brien and Murray (2) with the goals.

The return game was left unplayed – Pat's had already quite convincingly won the league, dropping just three points in the 21 games they played. They would win the league each of the next three seasons as well before finally being admitted to the Lol – which they won at their first attempt. We met seven times in the LSL, and lost every time.



10 Colm Whelan



SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

UCD AFC Supporters' Club wants to thank everyone who is providing a service for others during this time.

This month's games

UCD fans are getting their money's worth at the UCD Bowl; there have been some great ties already this year. These home games with Drogheda United and St. Pat's begin the second series of nine games bringing plenty of anticipation for UCD fans who want to continue to get behind the team and them on.

The SC welcome fans of Drogheda United and St. Pat's to The UCD Bowl. The Students want to get stuck into these games, showing their talent and experience against the best in the league.

Season Tickets and Matchday Tickets

UCD are using the Clubforce website to sell online tickets. The UCD AFC account is the place to buy future online match tickets for the UCD Bowl. Details on the club website www.ucdfc.ie

Upcoming Premier Division games

Friday 22nd April, Derry City v UCD AFC; Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium; ko 7:45pm

Students toe-to-toe with the leaders. UCD always seem to get an away win or point every season we play the Candystripes.

Friday 29th April; Bohemians v UCD AFC; Dalymount Park; ko 7:45pm

Bus to Dalymount

UCD Supporters Travel are taking names for a bus to Dalymount Park.

Our private bus will depart UCD Sports Centre at approx 6:30pm and return immediately after the game.

Fare: between €8 and €12 depending on numbers. All UCD fans who wish to travel can contact UCDSupporters@gmail.com or myself Stephen Joyce on 087 7606299

Underage call-ups

The Supporters' Club want to congratulate the underage International representations for March – Colm Whelan, Dylan Duffy, Evan Caffrey, Dan McHale and Joy Ralph, then the goalkeepers for this month Rugile Auskalnyte for WU19s and Eve Badana with the Women's National Team. There were fine performances all round. The SC is proud of all our International representatives.

UCD AFC, UCD Students' Union and Jigsaw

Last month it was announced the club in collaboration with the UCDSU will provide new sponsorship packages where 50% will be donated to youth mental wellbeing charity JIGSAW. A percentage of ticket sales will also be donated to the charity, along with the charity's name being on the front of the new UCD AFC jersey. <https://jigsaw.ie/>

DLR at the UCD Bowl

Women's National League
<https://wnl.fai.ie/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/DLRWaves
Twitter: @DLRWaves

Join UCD AFC Supporters' Club

Since its founding in 2010, UCD AFC Supporters' Club have increased their membership reaching over 200 signed-up Members every season. We want that to continue that success into 2021. To join email: ucdsupporters@gmail.com. The Supporters' Club have a website (www.ucdsupporters.ie), Facebook page www.facebook.com/ucdafcsupporters and Twitter: @UCDFANS.

Enjoy the game

FANTASY FOOTBALL

The standings from the UCD league of a new online Lol fantasy football

A new Lol Fantasy Football site launched last month. LolFantasyFootball.com has more than 2,000 players from all clubs in the league, and individual league competitions for each individual club. It's obviously based on the slightly more popular Fantasy Premier League with its 9,000,000 players, but the principle is the same – pick a squad of 15 players and get points based on playing time, clean sheets, goals, assists and – instead of the English version's man-of-the-match bonus – team performance.

There's 26 players in the UCD league at the moment, and after the first two weeks, Conor Croghan leads the way with his team "Colm Whelan is GOAT", in which he has Whelan on the bench. But three goals in the last fortnight from Andy Lyons has helped the Shamrock Rovers defender to 32 points, and he had a quiet smile at captain Jamie McGonigle's assist and win here in the Bowl last month, which delivered another glut of points. Still, first in the UCD league is only good for 133rd in the overall league.

There's some familiar names in the UCD league – Liam Kerrigan, for example, whose captain, Liam Kerrigan, is the only UCD player in his squad. So his assist for Colm Whelan last week was worth triple – once for the team, and twice for his fantasy football team. Keeper Lorcan Healy ("What A Ederson") is also his own captain, but defender Harvey O'Brien hasn't selected

Superleague crest of the month



Seshfield Wednesday

himself – maybe because he's injured.

There's still time to enter – you're unlikely to win the whole thing when you're a couple of weeks down, but there's a monthly UCD league and a Cup competition as well, and we'll be keeping tabs on all as the season goes on.

UCD overall table

Manager	Team name	Pts
Conor Croghan	Colm Whelan is GOAT	178
David MacHugh	College Ultras	176
Marc Hennessy	Treaty Get Battered Everywhere They Go	173
Sam O'Mahony	Mike Hunts FC	167
Ad Dox	Trying	159
Niall Coffey	Athy Town FC	158
Harvey O'Brien	Slabheads	156
Patrick MacHugh	UCD Are Magic	155
Shane McCreery	Fred Dead Redemption	154
Kevin Burke	Theyall Betis	151

THE GRADUATE FILES

The former UCD winger at one of the English league's newest clubs

Simon Power first came to attention at UCD when spearheading our U19s' title campaign in 2016, capping a fine season with a brace in the 4-1 win over Galway in the final which qualified the club for the UEFA Youth League for the first time.

By then, he was already breaking into the first team, and his mazy runs meant he was considered one of the Bowl's best prospects for many years. He made his senior debut at 18 as a sub against his former side Cabinteely, and it was against Cabo that he notched his only UCD goal, in a 1-0 win in March 2017. His 2017 season was blighted by injury though; he missed the last three months, including the Youth League games against a Molde side featuring Erling Haaland. It's quite possible that, with Power on one wing and Neil Farrugia on the other, we would have defeated the Norwegians – instead of losing on penalties – and maybe Zimbru Chisinau in the next round too, to earn, as Molde did, a glamour last 24 tie against Monaco.

In January 2018, he moved to Norwich City and went straight into their U23 team, and in 2019 he won four Ireland U21 caps. Despite good reviews at Carrow Road, he never made the first team squad, and instead had a few loan moves – half a season at Dordrecht in the Dutch second division (which included a goal against Jong Ajax), a short loan spell at Ross County (seven minutes of league action) and an only slightly longer spell at King's Lynn Town in the National League North. He made an immediate impact on his debut with a man-of-the-match performance in a

1-0 win over title rivals York City in front of more than 3,000 fans. It proved vital quicker than anyone could have thought; six weeks later Covid caused the season to be abandoned and King's Lynn were champions on points average. Had Power's debut match been a draw, York would have won the title instead.

He rejoined the Linnets for their National League campaign last season, which included an FA Cup run – Notts County scratched due to Covid, Port Vale were beaten in the first round proper, and their second round reward was an away tie against Portsmouth. It was the club's biggest day out in 60 years, but covid kept it behind closed doors, and Portsmouth added insult to injury in administering a 6-1 thumping.

Two months later, Power left Norwich – still his parent club – to join League Two Harrogate Town, playing league football for the first time in their 107-year history, on a permanent deal. Power went straight into the team, and scored his first goal in the English League a month later in a 3-1 win away to Crawley Town.

Unfortunately, injury has never been far away. A hamstring injury last March ruled him out for the rest of the season after 11 straight starts, and in December, he was again ruled out for three months. He's found playing time harder to come by even when fit – he's started five league games this season and been mostly used as a sub. With Harrogate safe from relegation and promotion, the rest of the season may now be a battle to earn a new contract.



TONIGHT'S SQUADS

UCD



Lorcan Healy **1**
Michael Gallagher **2**
Evan Osam **3**
Harry McEvoy **4**
Luke Boore **5**
Jack Keaney **6**
Liam Kerrigan **7**
Mark Dignam **8**
Evan Caffrey **9**
Colm Whelan **10**
Dylan Duffy **11**
Adam Lennon **12**
Eóin Farrell **14**
Alex Dunne **15**
Kian Moore **16**
Dara Keane **17**
Dónal Higgins **18**
Lennon Gill **19**
Seán Brennan **21**
Sam Todd **22**
Adam Verdon **23**
Harvey O'Brien **24**
Danny Norris **25**
John Ryan **26**
Tommy Lonergan **27**
Eric Yoro **29**
Alex Nolan **30**


Drogheda United



1 Colin McCabe
2 Seán Roughan
3 Evan Weir
4 Andrew Quinn
5 Keith Cowan
6 Mark Hughes
7 Darragh Markey
8 Gary Deegan
9 Chris Lyons
10 Dylan Grimes
11 Adam Foley
12 Aaron Davis
14 Dane Massey
15 Mohammed Boudief
16 Dayle Rooney
17 Dean Williams
18 Charles Mutawe
19 Ryan Brennan
21 Luke Heeney
22 James Clarke
24 Darragh Nugent
26 Georgie Poynton
31 Sam Long

TONIGHT'S SQUADS

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Harvey O'Brien **24**
Danny Norris **25**
John Ryan **26**
Tommy Lonergan **27**
Eric Yoro **29**
Alex Nolan **30**

St Patrick's Athletic



1 Joseph Anang
2 Jack Scott
3 Ian Bermingham
4 Joe Redmond
5 Tom Grivosti
6 Jamie Lennon
8 Chris Forrester
9 Eóin Doyle
10 Ronan Coughlan
11 Jay McClelland
14 Mark Doyle
15 Billy King
16 Adam O'Reilly
17 Darragh Burns
18 Ben McCormack
19 Anto Breslin
20 James Abankwah
22 Sam Curtis
24 Ben Curtis
28 Cian Kelly
29 Paddy Barrett
31 Kian Corbally
33 Kyle Robinson
34 Adam Murphy
45 Tunde Owolabi



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