

# UCD NEWS



## The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 8

July 2004

**WELCOME TO THE** eighth issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of midfielder Mick O'Donnell, a match report from our U-21 team as they continue their dominance of their league and of course the Belfield Diary.

June has been an interesting month around Belfield. Our first Cup quarter-final in three years ended with an extra-time defeat to Bohemians. UCD had been the better side in the opening half, but the game hinged on an offside equaliser for Bohs followed by a sending off for Mick O'Donnell. Both teams had half-strength teams out, but Bohs' intents were clear when they brought on Glen Crowe and Kevin Hunt as second-half subs. We, meanwhile, gave a debut to Gary Dicker and had John Brophy – another with no prior first-team experience – on the bench. To lose in extra-time was disappointing – especially as we could have been considered favourites in the semis against a troubled Limerick side – but it was encouraging to see the team pit themselves well against a top side. Indeed, some comments on the Bohemians message board went as far as to say that it was “refreshing” to see a team play passing football in Dalymount! Considering that Bohs have in recent years been one of the best footballing teams in the country, and that Bohs fans don't like Pete Mahon at all, that's very high praise!

The likes of Dicker, Brophy and, against Kildare, Darren O'Brien have all made their first-team debuts in recent weeks and, as can be seen from the goalscorers for the reserves, there are plenty of other players waiting in the wings! After four games, John Brophy has four goals, while Pat Burke and Paul Byrne both have three. Five other players have been on the scoresheet as well. Bohs fans on the messageboard mentioned above singled out Darren Quigley – our reserve keeper – as one to watch in coming years. We've already beaten St Pat's – our usual rivals for the South Leinster League title – and thrashed Shamrock Rovers, which points to a youth system which once again is up with the very best in the country. We have won the reserve title once before – in 1997/98, when the likes of Clive Delaney, Rob McAuley and Ciaran Martyn came through the ranks. Three years later, those players had led us to fourth in the league and an InterToto Cup spot. The good start to their season – top of the league with 15 goals from the first four games, and yet to drop a point – is a credit to the work done by Pete Mahon and Eddie Wallace in ensuring that UCD have the best young players in the country playing at Belfield, and a league triumph isn't beyond them, hopefully with the good omens of the last triumph too!

The FAI Cup Second Round draw sees us host arguably the tie of the round (Dundalk – Drogheda apart). It's another good chance to pit the team against Premier Division opposition and see just how good the team really is.

## BELFIELD DIARY

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – With only a goal separating UCD and Bray before the sides' second meeting of the season, a fully deserved 2-0 win for the College is a massive result, which sees us open up a three point gap at the top. Tony McDonnell and Willie Doyle score the goals.

**11<sup>th</sup> June** – Another three points for the College, though not as convincing as the previous week. Tony McDonnell scores late on for his third goal in as many games. Seán Finn picks up a knee injury and is out for about a month.

**12<sup>th</sup> June** – The Under-21s start their season in fine style with a 6-1 thrashing of Kildare County. John Brophy scores a hat-trick, Pat Burke notches a brace and Brian Gannon scores the other.

**18<sup>th</sup> June** – The League Cup semi-final draw is made, and sees the winners of the Bohs-UCD quarter-final host Limerick FC. Longford host Harps in the other semi. Harps travel to Belfield the same evening and come away with a 1-1 draw as College end their six-match winning streak. Harps take the lead mid-way through the second half, but only hold on to it for a minute before Pat McWalter equalises with his sixth of the season.

**19<sup>th</sup> June** – UCD's U21s beat main rivals St Pat's 1-0 with a goal from Colm Kierans. The result leaves Pat's with -3 points from their first two games after they were docked three points for fielding four overage players in their first game.

**20<sup>th</sup> June** – Ben Savage, who left UCD in the close season to join Monaghan United, leaves the northern club, citing a lack of first-team chances. Cork City beat Malmö 3-1 in Turner's Cross in their InterToto Cup First Round First Leg game to give them high hopes of qualifying for the second round.

**24<sup>th</sup> June** – The latest suspension list sees Robbie Mac suspended for one match after picking up four yellows. The ban is to be served against Kildare County.

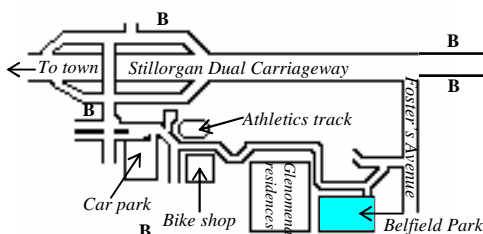
**25<sup>th</sup> June** – Another draw for UCD, this time 1-1 away to Galway – Wille Doyle scores again. The European draws see Shelbourne (with former Students Alan Cawley and Tony McCarthy) draw KR Rejkjavik in the Champions' League, while in the UEFA Cup, Bohs (with James Keddy and Robbie Doyle) draw Levadia Tallinn 3 years after beating them 3-0 in the Champions' League (Pete Mahon was manager then), and Longford (with John Martin) travel to Vaduz.

**26<sup>th</sup> June** – The Under-21s win again, 4-1 against Tullamore. Pat Burke with two, John Brophy and Seán Geoghegan score the goals.

**27<sup>th</sup> June** – Cork City beat Malmö 1-0 in Sweden – former Barcelona and Bayern Muenchen player Patrik Andersen is recalled from injury early as Malmö bid to save the tie, but it's Cork who progress to a second round tie with NEC Nijmegen of Holland.

**28<sup>th</sup> June** – UCD bow out of the League Cup after at the quarter-final stage a 2-1 defeat away to Bohs. Former Student Robbie Doyle was credited with the UCD goal, though Robbie Martin will claim it. UCD had a blatant penalty turned down after Damien Kelly was fouled by the Bohs keeper in the area, before a blatantly offside goal on the stroke of half-time sees Bohs equalise. Mick O'Donnell is booked for protesting with the linesman and then sent off for continuing his protestations with the referee at the half-time whistle. UCD still get to extra-time, and only a scrappy James Keddy goal sees Bohs through, though they still had to clear off the line from Rob McAuley in the final minute to avoid going to a penalty shoot-out. For UCD, Gary Dicker makes his senior debut and John Brophy is on the bench. Brian Gannon is out for three months after being injured in a nasty challenge shortly after half-time.

## WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



### Buses to Belfield:

3	10
11	11B
17	46
46A	46B
46C	46D
63	84
B – Bus stop	

## LOVING IT!

*From the Star; 22<sup>nd</sup> June.*

UCD continued their impressive start to the eircom Under-21 campaign with victory over St Patrick's Athletic at John Island Park on Saturday.

A single goal scored by Colm Kierans was enough to ensure the points for the Students in a match they controlled for long periods.

Yet it was surprising that it turned out to be the only goal of the game considering last week Pat's won 4-3, while UCD were 6-1 winners.

Instead, it was a tight affair with few clear-cut chances as both defences stood up well to the challenge.

The early stages belonged to the visitors and both John Brophy and Patrick Burke came close before Kierans scored the decisive goal eight minutes into the match.

Some poor defending initially gave the big striker half a chance, and he held off a defender on a strong run into the box before touching the ball past Brendan Clarke from the left-hand side of the box.

UCD were well worth their lead, and some of their passing at times was superb with Burke, Kierans, John Gaffney and Brophy showing some wonderful touches, particularly down their left-hand side.

Brophy, a hat-trick hero in that win over Kildare County, was having a fine game up front for UCD, holding the ball up well and allowing the support to come in from midfield.

In stark contrast, the Pat's No 10, David Walton, was getting no change out of the towering Kieran Foley at centre-half for the Students, and was becoming increasingly isolated up front as the home side struggled to contain their skilful guests.

On one occasion when the hosts did break free of their defensive shackles, Philip Sheppard stung the palms of keeper Darren Quigley with a good effort from the edge of the area which the stopper gathered well.

Pat's improved in the second half, but it was UCD who always looked more likely to get the second goal to seal it, however, in the end, they did not need it.

**UCD** – Darren Quigley, Brian Gannon, Damien Kelly, Kieran Foley, Liam Tiernan, Darren O'Brien, Stephen Hurley, John Gaffney, Colm Kierans, John Brophy, Patrick Burke.

**Subs** – Steve Dillon for Tiernan (69), Tadhg Purcell for Hurley (75), Lloyd Colfer for Brophy (87). Subs not used – Seán Geoghegan, Stephen Lashew.

## WIN MATCH TICKETS

We've improved our match tickets giveaway for the new season – now, in addition to four free match tickets, each winner will also pick up two match programmes and two fanzines. Our winners this month are Grainne Hartnett, Gerard McNamee, Stephen Andrews and Philip Gormley.

*To unsubscribe from the UCD Supporters' Club, simply send us an e-mail at [ucdafc@yahoo.ie](mailto:ucdafc@yahoo.ie)*

## FOCUS ON – MICK O'DONNELL

**Name** – Mick O'Donnell

**Place of birth** – Carndonagh, Co. Donegal

**Date of birth** – 29<sup>th</sup> July 1977

**Position** – Quite a lot of them. Centre-mid, left-wing, left-back...

**Joined UCD** – June 1995

**Signed from** – Carndonagh Community School.

**First goal** – H v. Dundalk, October 1996

**2004 UCD statistics** – Played 13 (12 league, 1 League Cup), scored 0

**Career UCD statistics (league only)** – 160 games, 10 goals.

**Did you know?** – Against Kildare County, Micko equalled Jason Colwell's tally of 160 league games for UCD to become the tenth most-capped UCD player since we joined the league. He was Supporters' Player of the Year last season.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**17<sup>th</sup> July** – Away to Limerick in Pike Rovers' ground; kick-off at 6:30pm. Anybody wanting to play for Limerick should probably get in touch – in their recent league match against Bray, they were so stuck for players that they had to play their sub keeper up front! He was sent off late on for a second yellow picked up for a foul on the Bray keeper!

**23<sup>rd</sup> July** – Home to Cork City in the FAI Cup Second Round. The date is subject to Cork City's result against NEC Nijmegen in the InterToto Cup – if they progress, they will be facing Nantes on this date, and the Cup game will be rescheduled, possibly for the following Tuesday. The last time we played Cork in the FAI Cup, we went on to win the First Division by eight points!

**30<sup>th</sup> July** – More Corkonians visit Belfield, just in case you hadn't had enough the previous week! Cobh Ramblers visit, one of only three teams UCD haven't yet beaten this season after a last-minute penalty earned us a 1-1 draw in Cobh earlier in the season.

**7<sup>th</sup> August** – Away to Sligo, whom UCD only beat 2-1 when they visited Belfield earlier in the season.

*Don't forget – if you can't go to a UCD game, you can keep in touch with the Students in many ways –*

- Aertel page 222
- ThreeText page 267 (on TV3)
- The UCD text service – text UCD to 53131 to receive goal flashes and news! Texts cost 30p each. To unsubscribe, text "Unsub UCD" to 53131.
- <http://www.fut.ie/forums> – the UCD messageboard, which now includes match reports from all our matches this season as most of the rest of the papers don't seem to care!
- RTÉ Medium Wave and Newstalk 106, both of which offer regular eircom League commentary on Fridays.
- [www.ucd.ie/~soccer](http://www.ucd.ie/~soccer), the official UCD website
- [www.ucd.ie/~soccup](http://www.ucd.ie/~soccup), the unofficial website.