

UCD NEWS



The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 24

May 2006

WELCOME TO THE twenty-fourth issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of winger Derek Doyle, a look at and Darren Quigley's progress to Ireland U-21's first-choice keeper, and as usual, the Belfield Diary.

It's been a very frustrating few weeks lately. Skirting with the top half of the table, throwing away six points from games we took the lead in and having a big gap as games were called off due to international call-ups. And as if that wasn't enough, we now have details of the FAI's near-arbitrary selection process for next season's league, in which fairness seems to have been left to one side.

On the plus side, we have our first competitive U-21s internationals in a long time (and our first international red card in a while too...) Darren Quigley and Gary Dicker both travelled to Baku in Azerbaijan – Dicker is reported to have been shocked when he looked at a map and saw it was only a couple of hundred miles from Iraq – and Quigley started, seemingly cementing his position as number one for the next two or three years. That said, he didn't do himself any favours by being sent off for hitting out at an opponent in injury time! Gary Dicker didn't feature in the game, but came on with a few minutes to go in the return leg in Kilkenny for his first competitive cap as well; he didn't have much to do, although a skied clearance did lead to an Azeri penalty, which Quigley's replacement saved. The Ireland squad included Aiden McGeady, Darren Potter and Willo Flood, while they also got in a training session with the Irish senior team, with Shay Given taking time out to give Darren Quigley a few pointers and Gary going head-to-head with Graham Kavanagh.

There were three more international honours during the month – Kieran Harte, Aaron McEniff and Ronan Finn were selected for the eL U-21 squad to play in the annual semi-pro tournament against the English non-league, Scottish Highland league and Welsh Premier league. At this stage, nobody really knows what the point of the tournament is, though UCD have regularly supplied players. The team unfortunately finished last, losing all three games.

The two games in Dalymount recently were nearly carbon copies of each other – UCD take the lead within ten minutes before throwing it away to lose to a late header. Bohs have a bit of a hex over us, but losing to Dublin City will grate. Saturday football continues to work well – a comfortable 3-0 win over Sligo meaning 8 goals in three Saturday games now. It'll be a while before we have one again though – this week's home game has been moved to Friday at 8 for live coverage on Setanta, while there follows a two-week break for the World Cup and then mid-week home games against Waterford and Longford.

The FAI sent around a document to all league clubs outlining the basis for qualification for the Premier Division next season – clubs will now be ranked according to league, League Cup and FAI Cup performance over the past six years, including this one (UCD expect to rank 8th here) and also such arbitrary notions as attendance, number of clubs in your geographic area, future strategic plan and sustainability. The clubs will vote on this next month, with the outcome still unsure. With UCD likely to score lowly on attendance, ground capacity and geography, expect a nervous few months ahead, regardless of how well we do on the pitch.

BELFIELD DIARY

20th April – UEFA's latest Fair Play update shows UCD's chances of UEFA Cup football are all but gone, not helped by three red cards for Ireland's U-17s in their last Euro qualifier.

24th April – UCD's U-21s draw 1-1 against Shamrock Rovers in the pre-season Shield tournament. Ciarán Quinn scores for UCD.

25th April – Gary Dicker and Darren Quigley keep their places in Ireland's U-21 squad for the Euro 2008 pre-qualifier against Azerbaijan in May. Also in the squad are Celtic's Aiden McGeady, Liverpool's Darren Potter (on loan at Southampton) and Willo Flood of Man City.

28th April – Despite taking an early lead through Alan Cawley, Bohs fight back with two late headers to steal the points from Dalymount. Charlton manager (ex Charlton manager now) Alan Curbishley is rumoured to be in attendance, though isn't spotted.

3rd May – FAI Cup Second Round time is upon us again – UCD draw Kilkenny away.

6th May – UCD stroll to a comfortable 3-0 win over Sligo Rovers. Alan McNally opens the scoring before Pat McWalter scores two superb goals from well outside the box.

11th May – Darren Quigley starts for Ireland in Azerbaijan but is sent off in injury time for reacting to a heavy challenge. Ireland win 2-1 with two goals from Scunthorpe's Andy Keogh, but have to come from behind to win.

13th May – Kieran Harte, Ronan Finn and Aaron McEniff are selected in the eL U-21 squad for the annual Four Nations tournament in England against the Welsh League, English non-league and Scottish Highland League.

19th May – Ireland beat Azerbaijan 3-0 in Kilkenny – Roy O'Donovan, Andy Keogh and Kevin Foley all score. Gary Dicker comes on as a late sub in a game watched by, among others, Steve Staunton and Steve Bruce, whose son Alex lines out at centre-back. Darren Quigley is suspended, and his replacement saves a penalty in injury-time. Ireland are now through to play Greece and Belgium in the qualifiers proper.

22nd May – A depressing defeat at an eerily empty Dalymount Park as Dublin City come from behind to win 2-1. Paul Byrne scores for UCD; former UCD "forward" Mark Rooney scores for City.

23rd May – Ireland lose their opening Four Nations game 2-0 to England in Eastbourne.

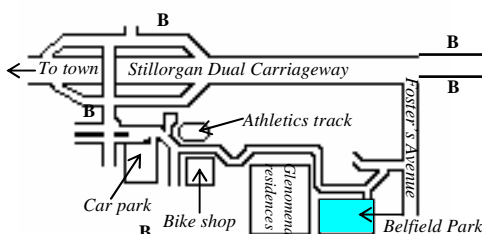
24th May – Another depressing defeat – this time, Ireland go down 1-0 to Chile in Lansdowne Road. Shels' Jason Byrne gets a second cap, while Cork City's Joe Gamble is on the bench.

26th May – All three UCD players play for Ireland as they go down 2-1 to Scotland in the Four Nations tournament in Worthing.

27th May – A tenth successive success in the first round of the FAI Cup (or second round as it is really) as UCD overcome Kilkenny City 2-0 in Buckley Park. Alan Cawley's penalty is UCD's 100th in the Cup as a league team, while Pat McWalter seals the win late on.

28th May – The eL U-21 squad lose 3-0 to Wales to finish bottom of the Four Nations tournament. All three UCD players start again, though Kieran Harte is sent off early on, seemingly for dissent after receiving treatment for a couple of minutes.

WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



Buses to Belfield:

3	10
11	11B
17	46
46A	46B
46C	46D
63	84

B – Bus stop

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

From The Star; 30/04/06

If you didn't know Darren Quigley, you could be fooled into thinking that the talented 19-year-old is so desperate to make it in England that he will jump at the first available offer. That couldn't be further from the truth, for the young goalkeeper has experienced a lot more in his life than his age would suggest. He's been through the misery of homesickness as a 15-year old with Manchester City, during an injury hit 10 months in a strange place, where he spent the little money he had on credit to phone his mother and pals back in Dublin. It was a harsh lesson to learn, but it convinced the Shankill lad that he needed to mature at home before he would give it a second shot.

And in his full-time job as a supplies manager at Tallaght Hospital, Quigley has got a taste of real life and viewed things which put the luck that footballers have into perspective.

That's why he's ready to give the professional game another shot. Alan Curbishley was at Dalymount Park on Friday night [Bohs v UCD] to monitor his progress, as well as that of team-mate Gary Dicker and Bohemians' Stephen Ward. It may only be a matter of time before he is packing his bags, but the UCD keeper is sure that any move he makes will be the right one.

"When I went to go to England when I was 15, it was a year earlier than most and my mother was telling me that I wasn't going – that I wasn't being allowed to go", recalls Quigley with a smile. "I said I was definitely going and that I was going to run away if she didn't let me. She's my number 1 fan and she was as upset as me when it didn't work out but maybe she was right."

"I'm delighted I went at 15 and experienced it because I know now that it wasn't for me then. I wasn't mature enough, I wasn't ready for it. But I now know that I would be able to handle it."

From the outset, things looked grim for Quigley when he arrived fresh faced in Manchester. Sure, he arrived at a club with a mini Irish community, at the same time as Stephen Ireland. One or two years ahead of him there was Willo Flood, Paddy McCarthy and Stephen Elliott. Not a bad bunch to be stuck with. But fate was against him, right from the moment that he moved into his first digs where the landlady locked every room on the house apart from his own and that of his housemates. That wasn't the glamorous life that he was expecting. "Yeah, that digs was a nightmare alright, we got sorted out in a nicer one after that alright but I still wanted to move back home.

"I broke my arm and I got homesick. I just didn't like anything about it over there after that. With a broken arm, I wasn't training, I was just sitting around waiting to watch the lads play at the weekend.", he reflects. "It's just a totally different world from having all your friends around you. You're left on your own from 12 after training and you don't have money to do anything. If you want to go anywhere you have to take a taxi. You're not earning enough to do much with your life. I wasn't mentally ready for that. So the best thing I ever did was to come back home and do my Leaving Cert. It's the best decision I ever made because I have done so many things I couldn't have done."

Not only did he do his Leaving Cert, but at 17, Quigley, after a short spell with Kildare County, was given the call from UCD and Pete Mahon, who lured him to Belfield. Soon enough he was made a first team regular and for two and a half years of senior football under his belt, he is now one of the most respected keepers in Premier Division. International recognition has followed suit. He's now a regular in Don Givens' Irish Under-21 side in a team with a few old pals.

"There's Willo Flood; it was Willo that broke my arm at City actually; it was harmless – he was just going in for a rebound in training and it was an accident. And I met Stephen [Ireland] for the first time since I came home in Portmarnock with the senior team ahead of the Sweden match. Nothing's changed, I still speak to them as if they're people I've grown up with. I'm not in awe of them or anything. I don't ever feel like I am just a little Eircom League player because I don't think that way at all. Everyone disses this league but it's so much better than people think. All you have to do is look at the talent that's there. In fact, after what Kevin Doyle did it might be harder for me to get away because clubs won't let people go as cheap," suggests Quigley.

"I got two and a half seasons playing here and that's why I am the under-21 keeper. If I went to England to be in the reserves somewhere then that's it, my place would be gone. And it would be a huge decision because nothing beats playing for your country."

FOCUS ON – DEREK DOYLE

Name – Derek Doyle

Date of birth – 30/04/86

Place of birth – Dublin

Position – Left wing

Joined UCD – June 2004

Signed from – Cherry Orchard

UCD debut – v Dublin City (A), League Cup First Round, 30/05/05

First goal – v Dublin City (A), League Cup First Round, 30/05/05

2006 UCD statistics – Played 9 (8 league, 1 League Cup), scored 1 (in the league)

UCD career statistics – Played 20 (16 league, 4 League Cup), scored 2 (1 league, 1 League Cup)

Did you know? – Derek was one of three UCD players to score on his debut last season – Damien Dupuy and Paul Whitmarsh being the others. Apart from that though...and a possible passing resemblance to Ruud van Nistelrooy...nothing springs to mind really!



UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd June – H v Derry, live. Note change of time to 8:00pm and change of day to Friday. The game's on Setanta Sports, but of course we'd rather you were in Belfield Park than in front of the telly! You can record it and watch it another time!

23rd June – A v Pat's as the league resumes after the mid-season break. Pat's are going well and, unlike the Belfield games, there's usually a few goals in this one!

27th June (TBC) – H v Waterford in a midweek game. Date to be confirmed, but recent home midweek games have been Mondays or Tuesdays.

30th June – A v Cork City – poor away, but fairly strong at home. They were like that before – in 2002/03, when a UCD win on the last day of the season prevented an unbeaten home record. Why not again?

9th July – A v Bray Wanderers. Note the change to Sunday at 3:15pm to allow Bray host Scottish First Division side Livingston in a pre-season friendly (for Livingston) on the Thursday!

Also – There's a rearranged home game against Longford Town to come in as well – no date for that as yet.

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
- 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.Post.ie/forum> – the UCD messageboard, which will continue to provide match reports all season – drop by and have your say!
- RTÉ Medium Wave and Newstalk 106, both of which offer regular eircom League commentary on Fridays.
- www.UCDsoccer.com, the official UCD website
- www.Eleven-a-side.com/ucd - A handy site for UCD news and match previews.
- www.STCCOnline.com - The Supporters' Club/fanzine website.

To unsubscribe from the UCD Supporters' Club, simply send us an e-mail at ucdafc@yahoo.ie