

# UCD NEWS



## The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 33

November 2007

**WELCOME TO THE** thirty third issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of striker Timmy Purcell, Everton looking back at one of their most important games and, of course, the Belfield Diary.

First off, and the league has ended in safety, although only just. We looked safe weeks ago, but then went on a seven game winless run while Longford were unbeaten in their last five, Waterford and Bray lost one in the last eight and Galway lost one in the last six. Squeaky bum time at the end of it, especially with Waterford missing an open goal with three minutes of the season to go and us utterly unlikely to win a play off. But we can at last relax and look forward to next year.

There won't be any European action next year after Longford held on for a heartbreaking 1-0 win in the Cup semi - former Student Robbie Martin scoring the goal, naturally enough - and we finished last in the Fair Play, a competition we've won for the last three years.

There was some good news though as we won the U-21s league for the third time in four years. The competition will be replaced by the A league next year, in which we will be fielding a reserve team in what is essentially a new regionalised Second Division in the eircom League. We can't get promoted out of it, but it should at least provide the team with stronger challenges than some of the 21s games did!

The win over St Pat's was a fitting end to Belfield Park, our home of 77 years, as the final game saw us take the Cup named after Dr Tony O'Neill, a stalwart of the club (cynics will say that a dull 0-0 against St Pat's was also an appropriate way for the ground to end!). From next season, we will be playing in the Belfield Bowl, sharing with the rugby club. Work has been in progress there for the last couple of months to extend the (only) stand to 1500 seats as well as add in extras such as floodlights, drainage, new dressing rooms, facilities and the likes. The roof is expected to be replaced in the next year or two with a cantilever roof.

On the international front, we gained seven international caps in November alone - Ian Bermingham played as Ireland's U19s beat Andorra, Conor Sammon and Darren Quigley helped Ireland's U-21s beat Bulgaria (and lose to Montenegro...) while a new U-23 team has also been set up, to be chosen purely from eL players. It's a bit of a silly tournament, but Conor Kenna and Conor Sammon played as Ireland beat Slovakia's U-20 team. We play the North next March and Belgium in November, so that's not about to become a regular event on the calendar.

Finally, comings and goings - Ian Bermingham and Shane McFaul are in England trying to find a club; Bermingham is having trials with Leeds and Stockport while McFaul has joined Scunthorpe until January. Both would leave on a free transfer, unfortunately, as they've only been here a year. Who would attract a fee is Conor Sammon, in talks with Derry; he's agreed terms, although Derry haven't been in touch about a fee, which is a similar situation to the start of the season, when Darren Quigley was in talks on a move north.

So who'll be left next season? Who'll arrive to make a name for themselves? An interesting few months await!

## BELFIELD DIARY

**10th September** - Complete inconsistency - after winning 1-0 in Drogheda the previous week, UCD are hammered 4-1 in Cork. Shane McFaul scores his first UCD goal.

**15th September** - Another defeat, this time 2-1 in Sligo with a squad shot through with injury. Paul Murphy scores his first UCD goal late on. Derek Doyle suffers a nasty leg break and will be out for the rest of the season and then some.

**21st September** - Does the league form matter at a time like this? The Students sensationally knock holders Derry City out of the Cup, despite missing Ian Bermingham, Tony McDonnell, Alan McNally, Paul Byrne, Shane Fitzgerald, Paul Crowley and Derek Doyle - so many injuries that we couldn't even fill the bench.

**28th September** - Back to the bread and butter of league action, and safety is pretty much assured after a 2-1 win over Waterford in Belfield. Conor Sammon scores a penalty and Conan Byrne adds a second.

**5th October** - Conor Sammon scores late on to rescue a point at home against Bray. Irish underage international Emeke Onwubiko (of the Killylea Onwubikos) scores for Bray.

**8th October** - A bullet Pat McWalter header isn't enough for a point as Cork beat UCD for the second time in three weeks, 1-2 in Belfield this time.

**10th October** - Finally, a home Cup draw! The FAI Cup semi is our first home game in the FAI Cup, and we're home to bottom of the table Longford... The RDS is looking temptingly close!

**13th October** - Another solid point with a 0-0 draw in Derry. Nothing much happens, but we won't complain.

**15th October** - UCD's U-21s win 1-0 away to St Pat's - the Saints' first defeat of the season. Tony Doyle scores.

**19th October** - We warm up for the Cup semi with a 1-0 home league defeat against Longford.

**20th October** - The U-21s group stage comes to an end with a 4-0 away win in Port Laoise.

**22nd October** - With one eye on Sunday's semi, it's a weakened team which goes into action in Dalymount. Conor Kenna misses his first minutes of the season, Conor Sammon misses only his second game of the season and Fran Moran and Tony Doyle make their first appearances of the season. Shane McFaul goes off with an ankle injury, which rules him out for the season. We lose 2-0, not surprisingly.

**28th October** - The season collapses as, despite a dominant performance, UCD crash out of the Cup to a single Robbie Martin goal. With the four teams below UCD all going on unbeaten league runs, suddenly we've nothing to do this season but look nervously over our shoulders...

**31st October** - UCD beat Dundalk 2-1 after extra time in the first knock out round in the U-21s; we won 4-0 against Dundalk in the same round last year.

**2nd November** - The last senior game in Belfield Park is a veritable hammering, 3-0 against St Pat's. A spot in the play offs is now unlikely, but by no means impossible. All it'd take is for us to lose in Galway, Bray to beat Sligo and Waterford to beat Rovers.

**4th November** - An impressive 1-0 win against Shamrock Rovers takes UCD into the U-21 semis, to face Galway.

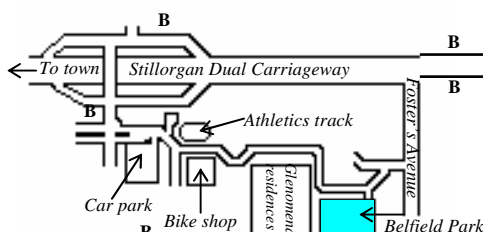
**9th November** - The series of events needed to put us in the play-off doesn't come about, but only just. 1-1 in Galway after 77 seconds, we lose 2-1, Bray beat Sligo and Waterford miss an open goal with three minutes to go. All history will record is that we're safe!

**10th November** - A measure of revenge on Galway with a comfortable 2-0 21s win to take us into the final.

**13th November** - U-23 caps are added to Belfield Park's growing haul as Conors Kenna and Sammon help Ireland to a 2-0 win over Slovakia.

**16th November** - Belfield Park comes to a fitting end with a penalty shoot out win over St Pat's in the U-21s final. UCD now retain the trophy permanently.

## WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



### Buses to Belfield:

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

B - Bus stop

## EVERTON REMEMBER

From [www.icliverpool.co.uk](http://www.icliverpool.co.uk), 23/10/07

EVERTON'S class of '85 is gathering next month to celebrate the club's famous European Cup Winners' Cup victory.

The squad which memorably overcame Bayern Munich en route to a Rotterdam triumph over Rapid Vienna will assemble at the Adelphi Hotel on Wednesday, November 21, for a night of nostalgia and celebration.

With the modern day Blues preparing for Thursday's visit of Larissa to Goodison Park in the UEFA Cup, skipper of that 1985 side, Kevin Ratcliffe, has drawn parallels with the two eras.

Everton endured a titanic struggle before finally edging past the Ukrainian outfit Metalist Kharkiv last month.

And in 1985 Everton were given their biggest scare of the entire competition by the Irish part-timers of University College Dublin.

"Hopefully Everton can learn from the experience of those two Kharkiv matches, like we learned from the UCD game in 1985," he said.

Ratcliffe reflected: "It wouldn't have mattered who we faced in that first round.

"It was the first European club game for all of us and we dreaded making a mess of it. Everton's record in Europe had not been good.

"If we were edgy over there it was worse at Goodison. I was really uptight and Reidy even worse. We were terrified of being caught on the break and conceding an away goal."

Everton eventually scrambled through 1-0 on aggregate and Derek Mountfield added: "UCD came back over here knowing that one away goal for them could be all important. "I remember Nev made a smart save late on to keep it at 1-0, otherwise it would have been 1-1. It was probably the hardest two games we played all the way through the tournament."

From that point on Everton grew in confidence.

Inter Bratislava were beaten home and away, Andy Gray was a hat-trick hero against Dutch side Fortuna Sittard, while the second leg of the Bayern Munich semi-final has become one of the most talked about games in Goodison history.

Stars like Graeme Sharp, Andy Gray, Peter Reid, Kevin Sheedy, Trevor Steven, Paul Bracewell, Neville Southall and Derek Mountfield have all confirmed their presence at the Adelphi on November 21, along with the management of Howard Kendall and Colin Harvey.

## Focus On – TIMMY PURCELL

**Name** – Timmy Purcell

**Date of birth** – 4 March 1988

**Place of birth** – Kilkenny

**Position** – Forward

**Joined UCD** – February 2006

**Signed from** – Shelbourne

**UCD debut** – H v Limerick FC, 26/08/06

**First goal** – A v Derry City, 20/04/07

**2007 stats** – Played 27 (22 league, 3 League Cup, 2 FAI Cup), scored 2

**UCD career statistics** – Played 29 (23 league, 3 League Cup, 3 FAI Cup), scored 2

**Did you know?** – Timmy has started just six games for UCD, buddy, and we've won four of those! This includes wins in Derry (when he scored the winner) and in Drogheda. His only starting defeat was in the 4-1 mauling down in Cork.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Not the most scientific schedule, but it'll give you an idea when to look out for things!

**January** – UEFA Licences are given out. Presumably everyone will pass, as always!

**Mid-February** – Fixture list for the 2008 season issued. UCD Alumni Dinner is usually in and around this time, as are the first of the pre-season friendlies against First Division opposition – Shels, Longford and Waterford maybe? Keep an eye out too for the Futsal tournament around this time – it's not U-21s this year, and while it is a bit of a silly sport, admission is free and an interesting way to pass an hour.

**Early March** – Kick off of the main event, the 2008 Premier Division campaign.

*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.FootieForums> – the UCD messageboard, which includes 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](http://www.UCDsoccer.com), the official UCD website
- [www.Eleven-a-side.com/ucd](http://www.Eleven-a-side.com/ucd) - A handy site for UCD news and match previews.
- [www.STKonline.com](http://www.STKonline.com) - The Supporters' Club/fanzine website.

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