

SSE AIRTRICITY WOMEN'S PREMIER DIVISION



CITYVIEW

Volume 2 Issue 10



CORK CITY

V SHELBOURNE

Sunday November 11th, 2023

BISHOPSTOWN STADIUM, CORK

Kick Off 2pm



@CorkCityFCWomen



@CorkCityFCWomen



FROM THE DUGOUT

A warm welcome to Noel King, his staff and players to Bishopstown for today's match. We finish the season as we started it, playing Shelbourne, but we'll be planning to send Noel home unhappy today, on his final outing as Shels manager. We want to wish him all the best in the future, he's led Shels to so much success in recent years, he leaves big shoes to fill.

It's been a long break since our last outing against Athlone, a game we could have taken something from, so we face both Cup Finalists in our last two games. The fixture list has seen us having to adapt our preparation a lot, but we've kept a high level in training and many of the girls are also playing College Football which is helping to keep them sharp too.

It's been a challenging season, but I think we've made real strides in terms of our standards and our play over the season. We've given so many debuts this season to some hugely talented young players and we've had a series of good performances over the past couple of months, and we know where we need to focus and areas we need to work on over the off-season and that work has already started in many ways.

I just want to finish up by saying a thank you to James, my staff, all the players and of course all the supporters who have been there, week-in and week-out through the season.

Enjoy the game,
Danny Murphy





BEST FUT FORWARD

Robert Aungier

This past summer saw UCC representing Ireland at the College Futsal Euros in Split, Croatia. City star Shaunagh McCarthy was a key member of the team and spoke to City View about the trip and the growth of Futsal in Irish Colleges.

“We heard about the trip when we competed in the regional competition first, but it had been years since an Irish team had entered the competition. We went to the National Finals then in Galway where we won the competition, and the organisers then gave us the option to go and represent Ireland and UCC on the European Stage.”

“Preparations were good. We met up as much as we could during the summer. It was difficult to get us all together during the summer months due to people’s schedules and Cork City games, but we made it work.”

“The standard of the competition was unbelievable and most of the colleges took the whole thing very seriously. Wherever you walked you’d often see a team doing video analysis, mobility work, getting physio or working out always trying to get the upper edge on the other teams so yeah it was very serious.”

“From my experience and seeing the other European college teams I would say the growth in Futsal is huge, but I do think the colleges in Ireland are way behind and there is room for improvement in getting futsal played regularly by women in and out of college.”

Futsal has long been identified as a sport that can greatly improve close control and skill in football and Shaunagh knows which Cork City teammate she would like to see compete in the sport in the future.



“Ellie O'Brien” She laughs “just because literally nobody would be able to get the ball away from her it’s like glue to her feet”

Balancing the competition with other aspects of life did prove challenging at times, but Shaunagh welcomed the challenge.

“I think it can be difficult at times because not everyone playing on a college team is playing at the same level and some people are there for socialising while others would take it a bit more serious. At the end of the day with college football you are guaranteed to make loads of friendships and when everyone is friends and working together towards a goal you will often become successful.”



AROUND THE CLUB

Dermot Usher presented outgoing WU19 manager Jess Lawton & coach Mick Collins with glassware recently, in recognition of their contributions to the club over the past few years. Everyone at City would like to wish Jess, Mick and Michael O'Sullivan, not pictured, the very best of luck for the future!



WU17
CUP
FINAL
Heartbreak

For the second Wu17 Final in a row, Cork City conceded a late goal to Treaty United that proved decisive in a tight game that could have gone either way last weekend in the Markets Field. Craig Robinson's young squad, many in their first year of Women's National League football have given us fantastic commitment and entertainment all year. "Back in January we came together as a group of players and coaching staff that had never worked together and to see what we have achieved is incredible. The players represented the club with pride in every game from minute 1 to the final whistle. A year of challenges, ups and downs but the team continued to surprise everyone and raise their standards. Going 11 game's unbeaten at the highest level in the country at their age is a massive achievement. The players have done themselves, their families and the club proud and can hold their heads up high."



Goodnight, Tweet Prince

Huge thanks to Brian Cotter, who in recent years went from "Niamh's dad" to our social media guru promoting the Club's Women's teams from WU17 up to Senior and Irish Internationals. Coaching commitments mean Brian is stepping back & is leaving big boots to fill..

It's the FINAL

Countdown

The 2023 Sports Direct Women's FAI Cup Final is a repeat of the 2022 version with Tallaght hosting the contest between holder's Shels and last year's runners-up Athlone Town.

Shelbourne will go into the final as favourites and looking through the talent in their side, it's not hard to see why. It will be interesting to see what goalkeeper lines out for Shels as they have been rotating their keepers lately. Amanda McQuillan played in the win against Bohemians while Courtney Maguire played in the previous win against Sligo Rovers. Each will be hoping to play in the upcoming cup final against Athlone Town. Maguire has kept eight league clean sheets this season to date while McQuillan played in their Champions league fixtures.

Athlone Town goalkeeper Katie Keane was Shelbourne's 3rd choice keeper up until the summer break this season. The Ireland underage goalkeeper's penalty shootout heroics secured Athlone a place in the final this year. Shelbourne sit in third place in the table and could still finish above Shamrock Rovers in second. They are represented by five different nationalities and had to deal with a high turnover of players during this year's summer break.

The upcoming cup final will be manager Noel King's final game in charge as he will step down from his role at the start of the season. Veteran defender captain Pearl Slattery is playing some of her best football at 34 years of age proving that you can age like fine wine.

Much of Shels success is down to their stellar defence. Shels have also introduced youth into their panel this year such as youngest Champions league player to make an appearance Hannah Healy who played at that level 2 weeks before her 16th birthday.

Shels have conceded just 12 goals this league campaign, fewer than any other team in the division. They have also only scored fewer goals than Shamrock Rovers and Athlone Town bagging 44 goals so far this campaign. Only cup final opponents Athlone Town have a better record over the last 5 games than Shelbourne. Athlone are the only team who have a 100% record over their last 5 league games. Those with the 2022 Athlone Town panel such as American midfielder Madison Gibson will be looking to avenge their 2-0 defeat in the reverse fixture in last year's cup final.

Information on the cup final is listed below

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Tallaght Stadium

Kick-Off: 3pm

Ticket Prices: Adult €10 Children €5

UCC & Irish Universities Key To Developing Future Football Stars

Dylan O'Connell



It's the perfect Autumn evening – the trees are rustling in the background and the rain falls heavier with each passing second. The piercing the drizzle, showing spectators who are watching UCC take on UL in WSCAI/CUFL Division 1.

Some of the talk on the side-lines is about the Republic of Ireland's double-header against Albania in the Women's Nations League, the rest is about the deteriorating conditions by the River Lee.

Despite the seasonal downpour, there is a deep connection between the international arena and what is happening on the pitch at the Mardyke.

“We were in Croatia during the summer for the European Futsal Championships and saw a piece about the team that went to the World Cup & I think all bar two played college soccer,” UCC manager Stephen O’Keeffe explained.

“You can see the standard around the college league. You can see the players playing with UL. You have top players with Galway. A lot of Northern Ireland internationals are playing with Ulster University. It is a fantastic competition and the standard – every year since I got involved three years ago – has been getting higher. There needs to be more emphasis on college football and the players deserve it. It is a great chance to mix players who are playing in a local league and playing in the League of Ireland.”

Plenty of young footballers have combined their studies with playing in the Women’s Premier Division. UCC’s current squad is a testament to that as it contains Cork

City players Eva Mangan, Jesse and Alix Mendez. The UL team has a similar make-up as their starting XI includes several Treaty United squad members and Wexford Youth’s Ellen Molloy.

These links have allowed the members of the women’s national team, and Women’s Premier Division to develop as footballers while making sure they obtained a degree.

Ireland has reaped the benefits of this system by qualifying for the FIFA Women’s World Cup. The player that scored the goal to make that possible was Amber Barrett and she once lined out for Maynooth University in the Women’s Colleges and Universities Premier League.

O’Keeffe hopes that UCC joins the list of universities that have graduates going on to wear the green jersey at the highest level. That goal is a long-term aim, right now is all about fixtures in the WSCAI/CUFL Division 1 on cold nights at the Mardyke.

The coach’s focus isn’t on something that could be 10 years down the line. O’Keeffe and his management team are driven by giving the players the best possible experience of college football.

The hard part for him is managing those that line out in the League of Ireland at the weekend, as it means they often have two games a week.

“It is very difficult, and it is something myself and Danny have spoken about a lot,” he said while referring to his relationship with Cork City WFC manager Danny Murphy.

“We have five or six players that are playing with Cork City on a weekly basis and it’s something we’re looking at, managing their load. We’re lucky that we have a good partnership with the Mardyke Clinic inside here. We’ve a good partnership with strength and conditioning coaches within the Mardyke. Communication is a big thing, with the girls and with Cork City. They train with us only once a week. They train with their club mid-week. They train with Cork City mid-week.”

“We work it around games. It is a challenge, and it is something that the players really enjoy. You can see they take great pride in playing for the college and it is brilliant for them.”



The system goes both ways and that allows clubs like Cork City to know that their players are getting looked after in between sessions.

“This link here – between us, Cork City, and the League of Ireland, and especially Cork City. This link is key,” O’Keeffe said.

“It is really good that I can communicate with Cork City and say that someone needs a bit of game time, and we can give them a bit of game time at a good level. The players, the standard, and the competition is very good. We’re giving them the opportunity against League of Ireland players but in a college league.”

This article first appeared in the Evening Echo on Monday, Nov 6th, 2023.

2023 PLAYER SPONSORS

26. HANNAH WALSH



**SINGLETON'S
SUPERVALU** **AVAILABLE
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(AWAY)**

2. LAUREN WALSH



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6. KELLY LEAHY



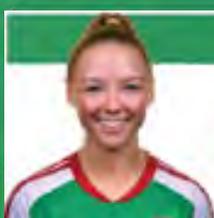
**MURPHY'S
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9. CHRISTINA DRING



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10. EVA MANGAN



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11. SHAUNAGH McCARTHY



**Ballincollig
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13. ELLIE O'BRIEN



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Corner
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GRAVITY
FLOAT**

14. ADIBHIN DONNELLY



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17. HEIDI MACKIN

AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (HOME) **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**



18. JESSE MENDEZ

The Corner Flag **Audivox**
BAR & LOUNGE HEAR THE VOICES BUILD AN FUTURE FIRST



19. NIAMH COTTER

RIVERSTICK CARE CENTRE **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**



23. FIANA BRADLEY

EIOIN O'MAHONY **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**



24. ALIX MENDEZ

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HEAR THE VOICES BUILD AN FUTURE FIRST




City View. Season 2. Issue 10

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