



Fraser Valley Soccer League



November 6, 2020

From the Media Desk of the Fraser Valley Soccer League...

A handful of teams completed their first cohort of play as the entire field in the APL looks to keep pace with the absolutely electric start of Coastal FC. Coastal were already between cohorts this week, but new boys UFV Cascades had a chance to pull even with them atop the table if they would win both their final matches of this phase of play. Elsewhere, at the bottom of the table Surrey United and Greater Vancouver United clashed with a chance to lick their wounds after their respective clashes with Coastal.

Here's a recap of all of the action...:

Abbotsford United 2-1 UFV Cascades – Saturday Oct. 24 @ Mouat Turf #3

The highly anticipated rematch between defending APL champions Abbotsford United and the upstart UFV Cascades headlined this week's action. UFV, heavily laden with players that had helped Abbotsford to that title last season, had spoiled their opponent's early season joie de vivre by handing them a decisive first loss of their title defending campaign. With this no doubt fresh in their mind, Abby came out strong, keen to assert their place as top dogs in the APL. It was a cold and blustery night and the elements made some of the top class play we saw in the first meeting between these teams a bit more difficult. Despite Abbotsford's early efforts, it was UFV who adapted best to the conditions, and **Taylor Richardson** capitalized when the wind led to a miscommunication on the Abbotsford backline allowing him to dart in an open the scoring. Buoyed by this early success, UFV were no doubt hoping to kick on to another message sending result, but Abbotsford were undaunted. United dug into that championship pedigree they showed on their march to the title last season a redoubled their efforts. Only a few minutes after falling behind, Abby were handed a chance to pull level when the weather again played a role in UFV being called for a handball in the area. **Daniel Davidson** steeled his nerves and converted from the spot decisively to restore parity. The contest remained on a knife's edge into the second half but, as the clock approached the hour mark, Abbotsford began to shade the proceedings. **Colton O'Neil** combined wonderfully with **Reece Branion** to put Branion through on goal, only for his effort to cannon out off the post. United continued to be on the front foot and this time it was **Connor O'Neil** doing the heavy lifting before providing a lead pass to brother Colton who was then scythed down inside the area, earning Abbotsford a second penalty on the night. Once more it was Davidson who stepped up and, just like the first time, he made absolutely no mistake to give United a lead they would not relinquish. In a game of fine margins, both defenses deserved praise on the night. For Abbotsford, in particular the partnership of **Sahib Phagura** and **Tammer Byrne** were outstanding alongside **Dan Goodey** and **Ryan Liddiard** to help keep UFV at bay. On the other side of the ball, Ryan Donald had a top performance for the Cascades, despite not being able to help his team to the double over Abbotsford. Following the match, Abbotsford coach Alan Alderson had this to say, noting "Really proud of our guys for the tactical adjustments we made this week that allowed our hard work to pay off in the creation of a lot of good scoring chances." Abbotsford now look forward to clashes in the next cohort with Coastal FC who are currently alone atop the UPL table with four wins and no losses.

Greater Vancouver United 1-4 Surrey United Firefighters – Saturday Oct 24 @ Newton Athletic Park #3

Both these sides were soundly beaten for a second time by Coastal FC in the build up to this rematch. The first time the sides clashed, Greater Vancouver emerged with the win and a confidence boosting performance. However, it clearly did not help them against Coastal, so now they were looking to once



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again right the ship and get back on track. Surrey United, meanwhile, were rooted to the foot of the table without a point to their names and were very keen to change that picture prior to the cohort break. Surrey would get off on the front foot in this match and drew first blood early when **Ryan Uppal** capitalized on a GUVU mistake. Greater Vancouver responded well though and equalized through **Ramneet Johal**. Firefighters were in the mood in this game though and the pendulum swung back in their favour. **Gagan Josan**, who has been Surrey's standout player of the season so far, was bossing the midfield and this heaped the pressure on GUVU's defenders. The home side continued to make errors at the back as a result and Firefighters were quick to punish them. Uppal would score his second of the match with **Josh Miles** and **Darien Correia** also punishing sloppy GUVU play. Surrey took a comfortable lead into the break, but Greater Vancouver came out with a strong second half effort, led by the play of Johal and **Jaskaran Sanghera**. This improved play did not, however, materialize on the scoresheet and Surrey were able to hold on and notch their first win of the young season. **Sukhjot Binning** had a top performance for the Firefighters as they now look to carry this momentum into their next cohort.

UFV Cascades 6-1 Chilliwack FC – Tuesday Oct. 27 @ Mouat Turf #4

A week prior to this match, newly promoted Chilliwack gave a good account of themselves against a UFV team coming in off the high of a decisive win over APL champions Abbotsford. Ultimately though, UFV pulled away and took the points in that match with some bad blood bubbling to the surface down the stretch in that match. As the rematch got underway it was clear that the ill will from the week before had carried over. It was a very hotly contested affair as this current cohort format serves to intensify rivalries, with reverse fixtures following hot on the heels of first meetings between teams. In this match, UFV would blow it open with three goals in a 15 minute span leading to a Chilliwack collapse that culminated with the sending off of **Zach Hansen**, finishing this game as a contest. A hat trick effort by **Taylor Richardson** accompanied by a brace from **David Parfett** stole the headlines, while **Trevor Zanatta** added his first of the season to complete the Cascade avalanche. **Malcolm Stafford**, whose constantly top performances have been a shining light in what has otherwise been a rather dim season for Chilliwack to this point, played well again and scored his third goal of the campaign, though it proved inconsequential in the final tally. Chilliwack's search for a first win back in the top flight will now take them to their next cohort.

Here's how the APL Table looks as on November 6:

#	Team Name	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Coastal FC A	4	4	0	0	25	0	12
2	UFV Cascades	4	3	0	1	16	6	9
3	Abbotsford United A	4	3	0	1	12	7	9
4	TWU Spartans A	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
5	Langley United A	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
6	Langley FC SAFC A	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
7	Surrey Utd Firefighters	4	1	0	3	4	15	3
8	Greater Vancouver Utd A	4	1	0	3	4	18	3
9	Chilliwack FC	4	0	0	4	4	19	0



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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Daniel Davidson** from the Abbotsford United. A top performance and a pair of nerve-jangling penalty kick dispatched expertly by Davidson led his Abbotsford team to a redemption win over local rivals UFV Cascades. In a hotly contested marquee fixture, Davidson's precision made the difference and kept his team on track in their APL title defense.

Congratulations David, you've won a \$25 gift card to Brown's Social House!



THE UPCOMING APL SCHEDULE:

Fri 11/06/2020 9:00PM	Langley United vs. Greater Vancouver United	Willoughby Turf #4
Fri 11/06/2020 8:00PM	TWU Spartans vs. Surrey Utd. Firefighters	TWU Park
Sat 11/06/2020 4:00PM	Coastal FC vs. Abbotsford United	South Surrey Ath. #10
Tue 11/10/2020 8:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. Langley FC SAFC	Mouat Turf #3
Tue 11/10/2020 9:00PM	Chilliwack FC vs. Langley United	Tzeachten Turf

A new set of cohorts brings new possibilities for teams as they will be reacquainted with old rivals in this second phase of play. Surrey United Firefighters and Greater Vancouver United will be looking to escape from the crushing weight of early runaways Coastal FC and start to build their seasons against TWU Spartans and Langley United respectively. It will not be easy though as Trinity are looking to stay unbeaten on the season and Langley are also keen to kickstart things after losing a pair of matches in their opening cohort. Chilliwack FC are also looking to earn their first points back in the APL and their next opportunity will come mid-week when they welcome Langley United to Tzeachten. However, all eyes will be on the "Match of the Season" to this point when Coastal FC host Abbotsford United at South Surrey Athletic Park on Saturday. Coastal and their vaunted attacking machine have scored 25 goals while allowing none so far through four wins to begin their campaign and have looked thoroughly unstoppable. They will be well rested coming into this match and we shall see if the time off has served them well or if it has served to cool their red hot form. They will get their first real test of the season when they square off against the team that pipped them to the title last season in Abbotsford. United will be confident after a statement making win over UFV in their last outing. The three matches between these teams last season were all top affairs and we will hope to see the APL and FVSL at its absolute best in their inaugural meeting of this campaign!

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