



Fraser Valley Soccer League



October 23, 2020

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

Cohort play continued in the Adidas Premier League through the weekend and into midweek, with teams getting the chance to develop some potential animosity given the close proximity of these reverse fixtures. Some teams would seize their chance for redemption while others saw repeats of their initial performances. The University of the Fraser Valley Cascades were the final team to get their APL campaign underway and they have entered with a bang. Meanwhile, Coastal FC have laid down a marker with four dominant performances to begin the season and will now wait to see if they can carry that form over when the cohorts are shuffled in the upcoming weeks.

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

Langley FC SAFC 2-1 Langley United – Saturday Oct. 17 @ Noel Booth Turf

After a highly competitive first encounter between these now geographic rivals, the second instalment of the new Langley derby provided another tight, no-love-lost contest. Having lost round one, SAFC were determined to exact a measure of revenge of their storied opponents. The play was scrappy once again and the referees had to be on top of the action to keep things from boiling over. SAFC began the game with purpose and were able to stake themselves to a lead thanks to a towering header from centreback **Brandon Nair**, who connected on the end of a well taken set piece. Langley United were not exactly being played off the park however, with **Scott Barling** and **Steve Gaffney** marshalling their side around the pitch and looking to cause SAFC problems. While they were unable to get their side back on level terms immediately, their intensity did lead to the sending off of SAFC's **Jared Crane**, who picked up a pair of first half bookings to end his afternoon prematurely. Despite this numerical inferiority, SAFC had a glorious opportunity to double their advantage, but **Ayman Hamza** was unable to convert a low, hard cross into the box. At the start of the second half United began to assert themselves and tried to make their extra man count. The visitors generated a handful of chances but **Kevin Picard**, getting his first start in goal for SAFC, had an answer for everything United directed his way. Eventually SAFC were able to venture forward once more and their endeavours proved fruitful when **Yimar Palacio**, who was having a standout game for the home team, earned his side a penalty. **Junhyung Lee** made no mistake from the spot and provided SAFC with some breathing room. It was breathing room they would ultimately need as well, with United still pushing for a way back into the match. **Jakr Othman** would pull one goal back for LU, but that is close as they would come as SAFC secured a split of the points over the two matches. While he did not get on the scoresheet directly, **Dylan Jordan** had a top performance for SAFC and he and his teammates will look to now build on their first win of the season.

Coastal FC 8-0 Greater Vancouver United – Saturday Oct. 17 @ South Surrey Athletic Park #10

Following an initial beat down by Coastal in their first match of the season, Greater Vancouver had bounced back with a tidy win of their own over Surrey United. There was no doubt hoping to carry that form into this rematch against Coastal and demonstrate that they have learned from the thumping they took on day one. That would not be the case. Coastal were once again completely irresistible, with their three-headed monster of an attack, featuring **Graeme Meers** and **Isaac Kyei** alongside talisman **Jake Starheim**, looking entirely unstoppable at times. After a decent opening ten minutes, GUV were caught napping, allowing Coastal to slip in and easily break their offside trap. Once the defence was breached it seemed as though Coastal's speed up front provided them with a chance to score on every



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single counter attack and, most of the time, they did just that. By the time the final tally was counted Kyei had notched a brace while Starheim banged in four goals of his own to establish himself as the early APL Golden Boot leader. **Taj Sangara** completed Coastal's second rout of GVU with a pair of goals as well, while **Daniel Smyth** shut the door for the clean sheet. **Gary Gill** was a bright spot for Greater Vancouver in this match with he and **Jassa Sanghera** both creating chances that, if converted, could possibly have altered the trajectory of this match. In the end, though, it was a thoroughly dominant Coastal FC performance with midfielder **Amar Mander** also deserving recognition for a top performance.

UFV Cascades 5-1 Abbotsford United – Saturday Oct. 17 @ Mouat Turf #4

It was an interesting dynamic when defending APL Champions Abbotsford took the field against the University of the Fraser Valley Cascades for UFV's inaugural APL match. Several familiar faces that had helped Abby to the title last season were now on the opposite side of the ball wearing Cascades kits. Perhaps their inside knowledge of Abbotsford helped as well with UFV looking dangerous in this match straight from the off. The opening exchanges were carried out at top speed and while Abbotsford may have shaded the possession numbers, it was UFV who were clinical with their chances. A trio of former Abby players combined to strike on the counter attack with **Parman Minhas** flicking a long ball from **Ryan Donald** into the path of striker **Taylor Richardson** who was hauled down leading to a penalty. Minhas stepped up to convert and the Cascades never looked back. **Sahil Dhindsa** then provided some good midfield work before finding **David Parfett**, yet another former Abby player, who took on a pair of defenders before finishing neatly into the top corner. Another counter attack provided a third goal for UFV when **Marley Edwards** latched on to a ball in midfield before a lung-bursting 20 meter dash put him in a position to tuck it neatly into the far corner. The Cascades were in dreamland in their APL curtain raiser; however, Abby were certainly not just going to roll over. The visitors regrouped at half time and looked to have a lifeline back into the match when **Colton O'Neill** got them on the board after nodding home from a pacey corner kick. That would be the lone bright spot for United though, as UFV were able to kill the match off in some style. First, **Jasdeep Gill** combined with Dhindsa who put in a lovely cross for Richardson to tap in. Richardson then turned provider, taking on no fewer than three Abby defenders as part of a swashbuckling run down the sideline before crossing the ball for Edwards to bag his second of the match with a cracking first time finish. UFV coach Tom Lowndes spoke afterwards about UFV's first match in the APL as well as all the all the familiar faces on both sides of the ball: "It was huge to play against guys who have helped build the program and make it what it is," he said. "I think it definitely meant something to us. A little bit of bragging rights – it's the battle of Abbotsford." Abbotsford coach Alan Alderson summed up a rare off night for his group by saying "We met a team that was incredibly hungry, worked incredibly hard defensively and were electric going forward especially on the counter attack. They certainly deserved the three points and have given us a chance to reflect on some areas that we need to improve on." Certainly, both teams will be looking forward to the reverse fixture quickly approaching on the APL schedule!

Surrey United Firefighters 0-6 Coastal FC – Tuesday Oct. 20 @ South Surrey Athletic Park #10

If it was not clear from their first three results to the season that Coastal FC meant business this season in the APL, they rounded out their opening cohort play with yet another dazzling display. Coastal now have a perfect twelve points from four matches, scoring and incredible 25 goals over that span while their defense has yet to be breached. Surely the rest of the APL has taken notice and, just as surely, Surrey United and Greater Vancouver United will be happy to see the backs of the South Surrey boys for the foreseeable future. This rematch between Coastal and their local rival Surrey United played out in



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similar fashion to their first meeting. Following his four goal outburst on the weekend, **Jake Starhiem** was somewhat unexpectedly absent from the scoresheet in this night. That did not mean he was not a factor however, as he terrorized the Firefighters with another top performance and played key roles in goals for his compatriots in Coastal's attack, **Isaac Kyei** and **Graeme Meers**, both of whom netted in this game. **Sean Northcote** would be the only Coastal player to strike more than once as he bagged a brace in a game that saw the visitors spread the joy around somewhat. **Taj Sangara** followed up his brace at the weekend with another goal in this one while **Brendan Northcote** rounded out the scoring. Daniel Smyth made it three shutouts on the bounce for him personally, with Coastal, as alluded to previously, notching their fourth clean sheet out of four. **David Adams** played well for Surrey in another otherwise forgettable outing for the Firefighters who are still waiting to kick their APL season into gear.

Chilliwack FC 2-4 UFV Cascades – Tuesday Oct. 20 @ Tzeachten Turf

The return to the top flight of the FVSL was not getting any easier for Chilliwack. After a pair of matches against champions Abbotsford, they are now set for a pair of tussles with UFV, who, of course, had just beaten Abbotsford handily at the weekend. One thing Chilliwack were not backing down from, though, was the physical play dished out at this level. The challenges were flying in on both sides of the ball in what quickly turned into a spirited affair against the university side. Unfortunately, Chilliwack goalkeeper **Andrew Kowan** strayed across the line with a crunching challenge on a Cascades forward and that saw him sent off from this match. That incident tainted what would have otherwise been one of the matches of the season so far in the APL. Chilliwack's **Malcolm Stafford** bagged a brace to give the home side a fighters chance in the match, but, just as it had in their opener on the weekend, UFV pace and precision proved too much on this night. **Parm Aujila** got UFV on the board when he nodded home a **Karman Buttar** corner kick at the back post before, from yet another corner, Will Bundy headed home the service from **Anthony Vega**. It was then **Mikael Mainella** who found himself on the scoresheet to open his account following a ball from **David Parfett** being played in over the Chilliwack back line that he was able to latch onto and deftly lob over the keeper. Set pieces were proving vital in this game and **Marley Edwards** made sure of the points for UFV when he smashed home a beauty of a free kick that he curled around the wall. So far so good for UFV in the APL!

Here's how the APL Table looks as on October 21:

#	Team Name	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Coastal FC A	4	4	0	0	25	0	12
2	University of Fraser Valley	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
3	Abbotsford United A	3	2	0	1	10	6	6
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	Greater Vancouver Utd A	3	1	0	2	3	14	3
8	Chilliwack FC	3	0	0	3	3	13	0
9	Surrey Utd Firefighters	3	0	0	3	0	14	0



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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Marley Edwards** from the UFV Cascades. After leading his team to a win in their inaugural APL match with a pair of goals against APL Champions Abbotsford, he turned around and helped ensure it was two wins from two for UFV with another top performance against Chilliwack, which was capped off by a lovely free-kick goal.

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



THE UPCOMING APL SCHEDULE:

Sat 10/24/2020 6:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. UFV Cascades	Mouat Turf #3
Sat 10/24/2020 6:15PM	Greater Van Utd. v Surrey Utd. Firefighters	Newton Ath. #3
Tue 10/27/2020 8:15PM	UVF Cascades vs. Chilliwack FC	Mouat Turf #4

With Coastal having completed their first cohort rotation, they will get some time off now to reflect on their perfect 4-0 start. Meanwhile, the first cohort will conclude for five teams over the next week, including Surrey United and Greater Vancouver United. Both these teams were once again blitzed by Coastal in their last outing and they will look to find some positives to take into the break before regrouping in their next cohort. UFV will also have a chance to put their perfect record to the test with rematches against Abbotsford and Chilliwack. That showdown with Abbotsford looks well poised to be a cracking match with the defending APL champs looking for a measure of revenge against the familiar faces of the Cascades after UFV trounced them handily in their initial meeting.

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