



Fraser Valley Soccer League



December 14, 2018

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

The second round of play in the **Umbro Premier League** is now complete with all teams having had a chance to play each other home and away. Things are far from decided however, as the title is there for the taking. After a busy week, the defending champions find themselves in control of their own destiny for the final third of the season. Find out how they managed that, and how everyone else did this week, in our [UPLReview!](#)

It was stumbles all around at the top of **Division 1**, as perhaps teams were letting their minds drift to the holiday break early. **Langley United B** ended the seven match win streak, and nine match unbeaten run, of **TWU Spartans** with a 3-1 win. It was the first loss for TWU since September when they fell 3-0 to this same Langley side. **Kris Robazza** had all three goals for United as he looks to keep pace in the Golden Boot race. He closed the gap to six goals on league leader **Connor Hoekstra**, who only managed a brace as his **Westcoast FC United** were held to a 3-3 draw by **SAFC Red Bulls**. **Bryan Barhona** countered with a pair of his own for SAFC. That made the biggest beneficiaries of the weekend **North Delta SC** and they also failed to win, but that was because their match against **Abbotsford United U21** had to be postponed due to weather. Still, with their two chief title rivals both losing ground it makes it a good weekend for ND! **PoCo FC Royals** against **Surrey United Elite U21** was also postponed, denying the young guns a chance to build on earning their first point in Div. 1, while the only other match that went ahead saw **Port Moody Gunners B** fall 2-1 to **Coastal FC B**.

This week marked the final round of matches before the winter break in **Division 2** and it was also the last round of reverse fixtures within the individual groups. It is "as you were" in 2A going into the break after the top three all picked up three points against the bottom three. **Aldergrove United Lightning** lead the way on 30 points after a 5-0 beat down of last place **Fraser Valley Blue Devils**. Both the promotion and relegation battle remain split by just two points though after second place **Abbotsford United B** beat second bottom **Chilliwack FC Reserves** 2-1 thanks to a brace from **Tej Paul Kullar**, who moved to the top of the goal scoring charts with his eleventh of the season. He sits tied with **Dan Hill** from third place **Mission SC A** who also notched his eleventh in their 2-1 win over **Westcoast Black Knights**. In 2B it is a similar story as **Surrey United SC** remain two points behind **Abbotsford SA Red Devils** after their top of the table clash produced a 1-1 stalemate. **Matthew McKenzie** had the goal for Red Devils in that one with **Ross Carroll** replying for Surrey. At the bottom, **Temple United FC** earned a 0-0 draw against **Langley United Sparta** which means **Westcoast Rowdies** will have some work to do in the New Year. Rowdies are four points back of safety after their 2-1 loss to **Port Moody Lordco Gunners IL**.

The weather claimed a trio of matches in **Division 3**, but the teams at the top were unaffected. **SAFC Hawks** continued their march towards promotion from 3A with a 4-0 win over second place **Westcoast FC Strikers**. Hawks leading goal scorer **Liam Priddy** had a brace in the win to move onto eight goals for the year. **Langley United Highlanders** now take over in second place after beating **Westcoast FC Celtic** 3-1. SAFC will hardly be getting hot under the collar, however, as Highlanders sit fully 12 points back, though they do hold a game in hand. In 3B **Langley City FC** increased their lead at the top to six points after getting past **Ladner FC** 2-0. Unfortunately that extra breathing space is somewhat artificial because second place **Langley United Impact** were one of the victims of the weather, having their match with last place **Coastal FC United** rained out.

For the second week running **North Delta SC A** had their match in **Masters Premier** postponed as they stockpile games for the New Year. This week it was **Delta United** joining them in an involuntary week off. Our Match of the Week produced a 0-0 draw between first place **Surrey United SC A** and **Port Moody Rangers** as Surrey did their best to emulate their UPL boys in finishing scoreless. The game was a hard fought battle, particularly through the midfield, with Port Moody pushing for the win late. Surrey knew the value of a point and after losing all-star defender **Bevan Footman** to injury part way through the second half, manager Dave Hleucka acknowledged that United more or less "threw bus in front of the net" in order to escape with the tie.



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It appears that the real match of the week was perhaps the other fixture from Masters Prem that saw **Temple United FC A** come out on the winning end of nine goal thriller with **South Surrey FC**, which finished 5-4. **Elvis Besic** had a hattrick for Temple who were forced to hang on for the win after **Barinder Johal** was sent off.

The free-scoring ways look to have returned to **Division 4** just in time for the holidays. It began on Friday night when **Lawrence Kabila** bagged a hattrick in a 5-1 for **Wakanda FC** against **Langley United Rangers**. Currently with a nine point lead atop the table in 4B, they will certainly hoping this form continues into the New Year and that it is "Wakana Forever!" in first place the rest of the season. There was also a three goal outing for **Brandon Knull**, who ensured **Abbotsford Phoenix FC** came away 3-2 winners over **North Delta SC United SJ**. Not to be outdone, a pair of Westcoast teams were rampant as well this weekend in 4A. **Westcoast FC Champagne** beat **Westcoast FC Four** 7-2 in a match that featured an **Anthony Low** hattrick. While, in other Maple Ridge derby action, second place **Westcoast Misfits** laid a 7-1 thrashing on **Westcoast FC Dudes** who sit bottom of the league. **Jeremy Carlson** had a brace in the win but it was **Tyler Carlson** claiming the match ball as his three goals take him up to 20 for the season and into first place on the scoring charts. When it comes to scoring however, one name continues to stand out from the rest of the pack. Just as others in the FVSL were closing in on him, **Brian Scrivens** of the **Fraser Valley Players** in **Masters Division 1** emerged from a rare week without a goal to score four in the Players 5-0 win over **PoCo FC Dominion**. Those goals bring Scrivens up to an incredible total of 22 through just 11 games and ensure he remains with the most tallies across the FVSL.

MATCH OF THE WEEK

For our final marquee fixture of 2018 we head to Masters Division 1 where a bitter rivalry also happens to be a top of the table clash. The league leading Fraser Valley Players host longtime rivals Chilliwack FC, who currently sit in second place. Players manager James Stumph characterized the match up as such: "This super competitive, physical yet never dirty rivalry is circled on our calendars when the schedule comes out every year. For the past three seasons the Players have been looking up at Chilliwack above them in the standings at year's end. Our rivalry goes back eight years with countless memories that include, 'Do you remember that goal' or 'Do you remember that save.'" Often there is something a little extra on the line when Chilliwack are the home side as Stumph added "It sucks losing to them on their home pitch as the cold dark drive back home felt like an eternity." There was no such drive for Stumph and the players this season though, having already claimed the first meeting between the rivals via a 4-1 win in Chilliwack back at the end of September.

As mentioned, the Rapids have traditionally had the better of things between these two, and came away with a pair of 1-0 wins last season; though the Players did have a small measure of revenge via a 1-0 win of their own in cup play. This season though, Fraser Valley have a not-so-secret weapon among their ranks in FVSL leading goal scorer Brian Scrivens. Scrivens had a pair in the reverse fixture, one being a 35-yard screamer, and coming off a four goal outing at the weekend, the Rapids will have their hands full. With Chilliwack only six points back, there is more than just bragging rights on the line this weekend. As Stumph puts it, "getting three points and going in to the break on a high will mean a lot for the winner of this Match of the Week."

Fraser Valley Players vs. Chilliwack Rapids goes Sunday morning at Swensson Park; kickoff is at 11am.

Got a player whose performance you think deserves a mention? Was your team part of an epic game worth highlighting? Do you have some cool pictures of your team in action?

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