



Fraser Valley Soccer League



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

The best of the **Umbro Premier League** along with the FVSL's top **Masters** players took on their counterparts from the Vancouver Island Soccer League in the annual All-Star showcase this past weekend. First up was the Masters match which was a terrific battle as usual. **Ryan Horvath** from **Surrey United SC A** scored on a second half free kick to give the FVSL a 2-1 lead, but the VISL would tie things up forcing penalties. After several rounds it was Horvath again who stepped up and the midfielder delivered the win for the FVSL for the second year running. Alas, the Open All-Stars could follow up the performance of their Masters counterparts, instead succumbing 3-0 to the visitors from Vancouver Island. Despite boasting a formidable attacking force, the UPL's best simply were not able to find away past either of the Island's keepers and the VISL's **Ryan Ashley** also stood out in defense for the away side. Regardless of the results, it was a great showcase with each league taking home a trophy while the real winner on the day was charity as \$1500 raised was for MS – Kick for the Cure. Looking forward to next years event back on the Island already!

Elsewhere regular league action resumed across the FVSL and in **Division 1** there was a major upset. Eighth place **Langley FC** recorded just their fifth win of the season emerging 2-1 winners over league leaders **North Delta SC** thanks to goals from **Scott McQuade** and **Nathan Peters**. The loss allowed **Westcoast FC United** to jump to the top of the table with their 6-0 win over last place **Surrey United Elite U21**; a match in which Golden Boot leader **Connor Hoekstra** extended his goal scoring lead with another hat trick. However, the real benefactors were TWU Spartans B who were idle this week as they now sit level on games played with North Delta, just a single point back, with both teams holding a pair of games in hand over Westcoast.

In **Division 2**, the New Year marked the beginning of crossover play between the two pools and for whatever reason, perhaps due to the unfamiliarity between the teams or just some post-holiday rust, this seemed to produce some rather eye-catching results. From mid-table in 2A **Westcoast FC Black Knights** crossed over to stun 2B leaders **Abbotsford SA Red Devils** 3-2, though Red Devils did little to help their own cause having **Cam Mackinnon** sent off. **Corey Darby** had a pair while **Brendan Reilly** added the other for the Knights, who stay alive on the edges of the Provincial Cup race. However, the second place side in 2B, **Surrey United SC**, could not take advantage as they needed a very late comeback just to salvage a 3-3 draw against **Port Moody Titans**. **Tyler Walters** for Surrey, who now co-leads the league in scoring, and **Joseph Powell** for Titans exchanged braces for their respective sides in the tie. It was a similar story at the top of 2A as well with first place **Aldergrove United Lightning** being held to a 0-0 draw by 2B's mid-table **Port Moody Lordco Gunners II**. Aldy's **Taro Boccia** posted his league best sixth clean sheet for the season, but was matched by PMO's **Mike Yip**. In 2A though, second place **Abbotsford United B** pounced on their chance to pull level at the top, coming out 3-1 winners against **Langley United Dynamo**. There were also crossovers that affected the relegation battles with second bottom playing bottom in a pair of matches. After all was said and done it remained as you were, with both of the 2B sides emerging victorious, so no one lost nor made up any ground! **Temple United FC** beat 2A's last place **Fraser Valley Blue Devils** 4-1 thanks in large part to a hat trick performance from **Corey Darby**, while **Anthony Sullivan** made sure last place Westcoast FC Rowdies were able to keep pace as his goal made the difference in his sides 1-0 over **Chilliwack FC Rapids**. The final crossover match saw old foes **Mission SC A** and **Langley United Sparta** put on an entertaining affair that saw Mission edge away as 3-2 winners with **Dan Hill** getting on the scoresheet for Mission to maintain his share of the Golden Boot lead.

It was a big weekend in **Division 3** as the 3A race is now officially over. While it has seemed a foregone conclusion for some time now, **SAFC Hawks** made it official that they will be crowned division winners at the end of the season after their 0-0 draw against **Langley United Highlanders**. It was a cagey affair with SAFC know that a tie would be enough and the got just that with keeper **Inder Deol** recoding his league best sixth shutout of the year. While the promotion race may be over in 2A now, that certainly does not mean there is nothing left to play for the rest of the way, including personal achievements, and **Brandyn Cox** took full advantage of **Langley FC Benders** hosting last place **TWU Spartans** on Friday night. Benders emerged on the right side of the highest scoring match of the week at 8-3 winner with Cox netting an impressive four goals! Meanwhile 3B remains undecided but it took a big step towards being settled when



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first place **Langley City FC** beat local rivals and second place **Langley United Impact** 5-4 in a thriller. **Cameron McDonald** had a brace for the Impact but he, along with his teammates, were edged out by City and hat trick hero **Mathew Greidanus**.

If there were any worries that the holidays might have slowed down the goal scoring in Division 4, the first weekend back should have allayed those fears. In 4B, the flag seems to be staying down for **Offside FC** who, five games ago, had no wins but now have four of them after they dispatched North Delta SC United SJ 3-2 with **Jag Pannu** notching all three goals. With only six games left to play it is looking like it will take something exceptional from **Fraser Valley FC Athletic** to prevent it from being "Wakanda Forever!" after Athletic lost 2-0 to **Mission SC B** leaving them nine points adrift of leaders **Wakanda FC** who danced past **Latinos FC** by a 4-0 margin. Over in 4A though it is all square at the top between local rivals **Westcoast FC Misfits** and **Westcoast FC Juventus**. Juventus lost 3-1 to **Port Moody Grizzlies** which allowed Misfits to pull level after their 7-1 mauling of another local rival, **Westcoast FC Four**. After scoring another hat trick in the win, **Tyler Carlson** now stands alone as the highest scorer in the division, and the whole FVSL, with a remarkable 25 goals on the season. Elsewhere in 4A, there was a hattrick for **Andrew Blakeman** in the 5-1 win **PoCo FC Pacific** registered over **Westcoast FC Dudes**. Not to be outdone by their younger clubmates, **Kevin Nesbitt** and **John Hallam** both scored three for **Westcoast FC Milan** in their 7-0 thumping of **Coastal FC Vintage** in **Masters Division 1** while **Chris Varga** bagged a hattrick of his own for **PoCo FC Haws** in **Masters Division 2** as they came out 7-2 winners against **Stolo Braves**. Surely a case of great teaching from one generation to another in those clubs!

MATCH OF THE WEEK

Now that the holiday and All-Star festivities are behind us, we return to spotlighting the best action around the FVSL. Our first feature match of the New Year is the Port Moody derby in Division 2 between Titans and the Lordco Gunners IL. This season the Div. 2 pools were segregated for the first part of the schedule so, barring a cup meeting, this will be the only match up between these two sides this season. According to Gunners manager Tyler Sayer it is an intriguing match between "two evenly matched teams who, despite sharing the same practice field each week, seem to know very little about each other." These sides have been rivals since last season when the Gunners were promoted to join Titans in Div. 2 with the Titans having the better of things, if only slightly, last season winning two out of three meetings, including a Brander Cup tie.

Goalkeeper Jayson Nicol is the main man for Titans, having won the Golden Glove for the most clean sheets in the division the previous two seasons. Shutouts have been a bit harder to come by this year however, with the Titans only managing to post two so far. For the Gunners, keeper Mike Yip is no slouch himself and is in good form after an MVP performance against Aldergove last weekend in a 0-0 draw. Gunners will also be looking for big performances out of midfielder Alex Baumann and defender Pearse Rogan. After a great start to the season, the Gunners have had a dip in form, but are now back on the edge of the Provincial Cup places. Titans are seeing their Provincial chances begin to fade away, but a win this week would keep their hopes alive for at least another week. Manager Kathy Cronk expects a close game feeling that "both teams are fairly evenly matched and there is a friendly rivalry between the teams." Those thoughts are echoed by Sayer who is anticipating a bit of extra flavour in this one: "this may be the only meeting of the season, and both teams know there is far more to play for than just the points this Sunday!"

Port Moody Titans vs. Port Moody Lordco Gunners IL goes Sunday night at Trasolini Turf; kickoff is at 6pm

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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