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

It was finally back to business in the **Umbro Premier League** after several weeks off on holiday and for the annual All-Star festivities. It may be a New Year but looks as though the same old questions remain in terms of who will be finishing where come the end of the year. Believe it or not, things actually got tighter after this week's results. Want to know exactly what happened? Our [UPL Review](#) has all that information and more!

There was another damaging loss for **Westcoast FC United** in **Division 1** this week as they fell 2-1 to **Coastal FC B**. It was **Mandeep Sara** with both goals for Coastal in the win while, unsurprisingly, Golden Boot leader **Connor Hoekstra** had the reply for Westcoast. Unfortunately for them however, the loss was significant with both **TWU Spartans B** and **North Delta SC** picking up wins to take control of the title race. Spartans skipped past **Langley FC** 2-0, while North Delta beat **PoCo FC Royals** 4-1 thanks in part to a **Dave Burns** brace. Even **Langley United B** leapfrogged Westcoast with their 4-0 win over last place **Surrey United Elite U21**. These results mean that Langley and Westcoast still have a chance to be champions, but certainly TWU and North Delta are in the driver's seat. At the other end of the table, **Abbotsford United U21** picked up a valuable point as they look to avoid finishing in a possible second relegation place at the end of the season. They were not able to put a goal past Golden Glove leader **Terry Jackson**, who earned his fifth clean sheet of the year for **Port Moody Gunners B**, but they did not concede a goal themselves in spite of having **Arshkirth Gill** sent off!

Crossover matches continued in **Division 2** and once more there were some eye-catching results. From mid-table in 2B, **Langley United Dynamo** stunned 2A co-leaders **Aldergrove Lightning**, beating them 4-2 with **Conrad Lichota** recording a brace in the win. That result opened the door for **Abbotsford United B** to take over first place and, in the end, they did not have to work for it at all with **Temple United FC** forfeiting their match. It was perhaps a harder slog than they would have expected, but eventually 2B leading **Abbotsford SA Red Devils** got past 2A's relegation threatened **Chilliwack FC Reserves** by a 3-2 score line. The loss was made even tougher to swallow when **Fraser Valley Blue Devils** beat **Langley United Sparta** 2-1 to leave the Reserves in last place. Chilliwack's **Sukhjit Uppal** saw his brace canceled out by goals from the Red Devil's Golden Boot challenger **David Vanderhoek** and brother **Eric Vanderhoek**, with **Ryan Miller** chipping in to ensure Abbotsford got all three points. Winning would turn out to be doubly import as their nearest challengers, **Surrey United SC**, dropped points once again after a third straight draw. This time it was a back and forth affair against **Mission SC A** that ended at 2-2 and saw the teams split the points. The crossovers also provided a pair of derby matches. **Alex Andrews** posted his fifth shutout of the year for **Westcoast Black Knights**, but his teammates were unable to find a goal at the other end against local rivals **Westcoast FC Rowdies**, who sit last place in 2B. This has been an all too common occurrence for the Knights this season as this was their fourth goalless draw of the season, which goes some way to explaining why they are mired in mid-table. Rowdies will certainly take the point though as they look to reel in Temple and get out of last place. The other derby was our Match of the Week between that saw **Port Moody Titans** emphatically beat rivals **Port Moody Lordco Gunners IL** 5-1, putting in a full team effort and getting goals from five different players!

An embarrassing oversight on our part here last week as we declared the race in **Division 3A** officially over. A close audit of the table reveals that **SAFC Hawks**, after emerging as winners once more this week, this time 4-1 over **Langley FC Benders**, still require four more points to mathematically clinch the title and the promotion that accompanies it. Though the odds are against them, **Langley United Highlanders**, who won 3-1 against **Tri City FC** this weekend, could still reach 48 points and win the league if SAFC completely fall apart. In **Division 3B** the second place showdown between **Langley United Impact** and **North Delta SC 91's** was postponed, meaning first place **Langley City FC** were free to extend their lead atop the table. However, City surprisingly dropped points to third bottom **WRU Vault FC** after **Kiril Baranovski** bagged a brace to take a point for WRU out of a 2-2 draw. This leaves City's magic number at 11 points to claim the title and a place in Division 2.



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Elsewhere, it was an impressive performance from **Andrew Jones** as he had all three goals to help **Ladner FC** edge **CCB Westside United** 3-2 and jump into the top half of the table in sixth place.

The **Masters Premier Division** also got back to work after a winter break extended by last weekend's All-Star game. **Port Moody Rangers** got a crucial goal from **Jon Sotelo** in a 1-0 win over **North Delta SC Rangers** that kept them within touching distance of league leaders **Surrey United SC A**, while dealing North Delta's title hopes a significant blow. United seem like they are more than up for the run in to the title however, after posting a 9-0 demolition of **South Surrey FC**. After being pipped to a goal by some younger legs while out for an emergency run with SU's open lads on Friday, **Sean Crocker** managed to net a pair of goals at a somewhat slower pace on Saturday. Although the day really belonged to the **Simon Crocker**, as he scored five times in the rout. **Temple United FC A** also won an important mid-table clash 3-1 over **Delta United**. The loss means it is looking very likely that Delta's only route to the Provincial Cup will be to lift the Master's Rob Brown Cup.

After being called upon to help the Master's All-Stars, goal machine **Brian Scrivens** picked up where he left off with his **Fraser Valley Players**, notching a hat trick in their 5-0 win over **Coastal FC Vintage** in **Masters Division 1**. Having wrestled the overall FVSL scoring lead away from Scrivens though, **Tyler Carlson** was in no mood to give it back, registering a hattrick of his own to lift his **Westcoast FC Misfits** past **Port Moody Grizzlies** 3-1. This maintains Carlson's three goal lead over Scrivens, with 28 goals on the season, and keeps the Misfits atop the table in **Division 4A**. Chief rivals, **Westcoast FC Juventus**, had a bye this week so, for now, Misfits enjoy a three point lead in first place. In **Division 4B**, after dispatching **Fraser Valley Athletic** 3-0, **Wakanda FC** moved within four points of the title and promotion. The big score of the weekend was back in 4A though, where **Port Moody Gunners U21** were rampant in a 10-0 win against a less than sparkling **Westcoast FC Champagne**. **Kane Badger** had a hat trick in the goal-fest, but was outdone by **Daniel Jelenici** who netted four times.

MATCH OF THE WEEK

This week we are in Division 1 where there is a crunch encounter between TWU Spartans B and defending champions North Delta SC. Both sides hold a pair of games in hand over the rest of their competition at the top of the table, with North Delta currently sitting in first place, just a single point ahead of TWU. The two sides have taken different approaches to the season with the Spartans having the second best goal scoring record in the division, led by the two headed monster of Pedro Duarte and Sebastian Wingfield. In contrast, North Delta has the best defensive record in the league by some margin, having conceded only 15 goals through 14 matches behind the stellar goalkeeping of Matthew Pereira.

The Spartans took the first meeting between these two sides back in October by a narrow 2-1 margin. North Delta manager Jim Matheson recalls that his side "ran out of steam" in that match against the "younger and faster" TWU squad. Matheson was kind enough to remind us, however, of the story of the young bull and the old bull. We will confess to not knowing it, though a quick Google search revealed that, while not a story fit to be recounted in this space, the moral seems to be that there is something to be said for the benefit that comes with experience, even if it is at the expense of vim and vigor. Regardless of how you want to categorize it though, Matheson is likely right on when he says this one "could be the game of the season!"

TWU Spartans B vs. North Delta SC goes Sunday night at Yorkson Turf; kickoff is at 8pm.

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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