



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



September 14, 2018

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

The wet weather returned to the Lower Mainland over the weekend which is a sure indication that the Winter Soccer season must be upon us. All eight **Umbro Premier League** sides braved the elements and met at Newton Athletic Park to start the season. There were some close games, a surprise result and plenty of goals scored. Read all about it in our [UPL Review](#).

Elsewhere in the FVSL, **Division 1** got underway with defending champions **North Delta SC** getting off to a winning start with a 2-1 win over **Westcoast FC A** thanks to goals from **Nikko Williams** and **Ryan Braich**. Westcoast were runners up last season so we will see if this first meeting proves to be a forecast for the Maple Ridge side to end up in the shadow of the North Delta boys once more. The new alignment in the FVSL, integrating U21 teams into Division 1, saw the young guns of **Surrey United Elite U21** get their first run out against open age opposition. They acquitted themselves well, but not well enough, in a 4-2 loss to **SAFC Red Bulls**, hopefully lots of promising moments to build on though! The other U21 side, **Abbotsford United U21**, will take their open age bow this weekend against **Langley FC**. Langley FC lost their opener to derby rivals **Langley United B** 3-1 on Saturday.

In **Division 2** things got heated right from kickoff on Friday night as the first two red cards of the FVSL season were handed out; both to **Westcoast Rowdies**. They finished the game with nine men, but clung on for a point in a 1-1 draw against **Temple United FC**. Our inaugural **Match of the Week** saw **Langley Sparta** top **Langley Dynamo** 2-0 in the Langley Derby and, in what may have been possibly the most entertaining game of the week, **Abbotsford SA Red Devils** edged the "Battle of the Devils", getting past **Fraser Valley Blue Devils** 4-3 in a goal-fest to start their season.

**Masters Premier** had perennial Golden Boot contender **Kevin Gaull** record hat trick for **North Delta SC Rangers**. Gaull had all three of the goals in ND's season opening 3-0 win over **Temple United FC A**. The **Surrey United SC Masters** were the only 0-0 score lines across the FVSL in Week 1, with both their A and B sides failing to score, but still coming away with a point in Masters Prem and **Masters Division 1** against **Delta United** and **Coastal FC Vintage** respectively. A tip of the cap to **Brian Scrivens** as well, who got off to a promising start to defending his Golden Boot in Masters Div. 1, scoring a hat trick for his new team the **Fraser Valley Players** in their 4-1 win over **Hurricanes FC**.

The big score of the week went to **Westcoast FC Juventus** as they put up 10 goals in their derby win over **Westcoast FC Dudes** in **Division 4A**. **Seth Injates** recorded a hat trick, while **Zach Romeo** tallied four times in that match.

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## **MATCH OF THE WEEK**

This week we are off to Division 1 where we find defending champions North Delta SC taking on Langley United B. Last season Langley was nip and tuck with North Delta for first place coming down the stretch, until a pair of losses to teams from the bottom half of the table, sealed United's fate. They would end up five points back of title winner North Delta but could boast of never having lost to the league champs. Indeed, Langley were the only team North Delta failed to beat last season. United won their home fixture convincingly early in the season by a 5-2 margin before drawing the reverse fixture 2-2 right before the winter break.

North Delta have returned this season with almost the same side that had such success last year, making only a few changes in the off season. Langley, on the other hand, has ushered in a youth movement with no fewer than ten players graduating from the club's youth program and making the jump up to men's football. United's manager, Azad Palani, knows this will be a tough test for his young group, noting "Delta is an older team but definitely have some game breakers that can break through any back line in the league. They won the league and now we must measure ourselves against them." In order to match their success against ND from last season, Langley will be looking for big games out of Taylor Weakes and veteran Jethro Kambere.

Given that each team got a result in Week 1, both sides will be looking to build momentum. After seeing how close the table was come the end of the season, these teams will know the value of picking up points off a potential promotion rival. North Delta will of course have the fact that they were unable to crack Langley last season in the back of their minds and, after having just earned a win of last season's runners up, Westcoast, they will not want to drop points to another one of their chasers from a year ago. They are under no illusions though, "Both teams won their first game of the season," said North Delta manager Jim Matheson, "so we are expecting a very tough game."

Look for this one to be a good examination of the credentials for the young lads at Langley as they are thrown into the fire against last season's first place finishers. It should be an exciting game, but if one team were to have a slight edge, it might just be North Delta and their extra experience.

***North Delta SC vs. Langley United B goes Saturday afternoon at John Oliver Park, kick off is at 2pm.***

*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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