



Fraser Valley Soccer League



March 7, 2019

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

Just when we thought winter was over, it seems to have crept up on us again. Nevertheless, we did get a few more **Umbro Premier League** games played and they were decisive. We are hoping to get maybe one more match in before our next [UPL Review](#) but keep an eye out for that as it will have all the details of an exciting conclusion to the season. In the meantime, the **Pakenham Cup** got underway last weekend so why not catch up on all the details of the first round of the competition in our Cup Review that was issued earlier this week!

The rest of the FVSL began their cup tournaments as well and, as was always likely given the sheer volume of matches, the **Presidents Cup** served up a handful of upsets. Interesting the successful underdogs in all these of these matches came from Division 4B; so there must be something in the water there. **Brandon Knull** had a brace to help **Abbotsford Phoenix FC** to a 4-2 over **Guildford FC Blues** from 3B. Guildford's leading scorer and Division 3 Golden Boot contender with 18 goals to his name, **Brody Strafford**, did score in this one for the visitors, but, as has been the story for most of Guildford's season, he was not able to do it all on this occasion. **Langley United Rangers** handily beat **PoCo FC Rangers** from 3A, 5-2, courtesy of a hattrick from **Tyler Balint** while **Aldergrove United Rovers** rounded out the string of 4B giant killers, knocking off **Westcoast FC Juventus** who are in pole position to earn promotion from 4A. Despite being second bottom in 4B with only 10 points to their name, Rovers were resolute and kept this one at 0-0 before advancing on penalty kicks. Elsewhere there were two all Division 2 clashes and they served up some tight matches, as you would expect. Fraser Valley Blue Devils heaped more misery on what has been a wretched 2019 so far for Surrey United SC, beating them 1-0 and eliminating them from cup contention. Surrey are without a win in the calendar year and have had to watch first their title hopes and now their cup dreams drift away. The other Div. 2 affair saw Langley United emerge 2-1 winners over fellow 2A side Temple United FC.

The cup can also serve up some pretty extreme mismatches and we saw that with Div. 2 **Mission SC A** putting the sword to 4A's **Westcoast FC Four**, beating them 11-1 with **Billy Larmour** helping himself to four goals in that one. Div. 2 **Westcoast Black Knights** also took advantage of lower league opposition, knocking out 3A's **Langley United Highlanders** 4-0, thanks to **Daniel LePage** netting a hattrick. However, there does not need to be disparity for there to be goals as there was also a four goal outing for **Devin Desaulniers** who helped **PoCo FC Rockets** to a win over fellow 3A side **TWU Spartans C**. Similarly, **Anthony Low** scored a hattrick to lead the charge for **Westcoast FC Champagne** in their 4-2 defeat of 4A rivals **Port Moody Lions**. Most impressive of all might be **Jesse Richardson** from **Langley United Impact** and **Parminder Singh** of **CCB Eagles**, both from 3B, exchanging hattricks in their match. The difference though was that Richardson had help scoring from his Impact teammates as they pulled off the 7-3 win in a match that turned when CCB were reduced to ten men following a red card for **Carlo Sutton**. Finally, there was the match between 4B champions **Wakanda FC** and the red hot **Offside FC** that we highlighted in our preview. This one saw the champs show their quality with four different goal scorers getting in on the action to hand Offside a 4-1 loss, their first defeat since November. Surely Offside will now try to regroup before the league meeting that is still to come between these two sides!

The **Masters A Cup** had only one match this weekend after **South Surrey FC** forfeit to **Temple United SC A**. The match that did go ahead saw **Port Moody Rangers** emerge as 3-1 winners over **Delta United**. This means that top four teams from Masters Premier are also the final four in the cup, so all four of those sides have booked their place in the Masters Provincial A Cup. Over in the **Masters B Cup** though there was plenty of action. However, there were no upsets with the draw going pretty much to form. The closest we came to a shock was the Over 45 Division's **South Surrey FC Bullets** nearly stunning **Masters Division 1** side **Hurricanes FC**. That would have been another hammer blow to the relegation threatened side, but they were saved thanks in part to a brace from **Satbir Badesha** to secure a 4-3 win. Also coming close were O45 **Aldergrove United** who fell to Masters Division 2 **North Delta SC Phoenix** by the same score line; **Joe Deacon** had a brace for the old(er) boys in the loss. The only O45 side to advance was **Westcoast FC Thunder** who rode a pair of **Dave Peragine** goals to a 3-1 win over fell over-agers **PoCo FC Northside Rangers**. They join **Port Moody Brewers** and **Fraser Valley Dragons**, who drew byes, as the only O45 sides left in the competition.



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Elsewhere, 4-3 was proving to be a popular score as that is how a cracker of a match between two top MD1 teams, **Chilliwack Rapids** and **Westcoast FC Milan**, finished. **Kevin Nesbitt** notched a brace for Milan but it was not enough as **Brodie Henderson** cancelled that out with two goals of his own to help Chilliwack to the win. Perhaps the biggest surprise of the weekend was presumptive favourites, **Fraser Valley Players**, who sit in first place in MD1, beat O45 **Coastal FC Rangers** 7-0 without a single goal from Golden Boot leader **Brian Scrivens**. Scrivens has 25 goals in league play but will have to wait until at least the next round to open his cup account!

Mid-week Matches

The snow returned in time to wreck most of the mid-week schedule, but the Tuesday night game did get played. That meant it was do or die time for **Aldergrove United Lightning** and **Westcoast FC Rowdies** in their **Division 2** crossover match. Both teams need the win in order to keep the pressure on the teams above them in the standings and, in the end, it would be Aldergrove keeping the pressure on, and their title dreams alive at the top of 2A. The 3-0 win came courtesy of goals from **Philip Itok** and **Josh Young** as well as leading scorer **Paul Kuik**, who took his tally to nine for the season. The loss dooms Rowdies to a last place finish in 2B. The Masters Premier schedule continued to edge closer to a finish when a **Bob Atwal** goal gave **Temple United SC A** a 1-0 win over **North Delta SC Rangers** which sealed a third place finish for Temple. Fortunately for North Delta, thanks to Temple's aforementioned cup win, they will still be play in the Provincial Cup. Finally, there was quite the match at South Surrey Athletic in which last place **Coastal FC United** would get their first win of the season and they did it in dramatic fashion, coming out on the right side of a 5-4 barnburner against **North Delta SC 91s**. Coastal's **Jamal Fidow** banged in a brace to cancel out two goals from **Bryce Murray** and the home side did just enough to ensure that no FVSL team will finish without points to their name this season. The win also gives United a chance to potentially avoid relegation as they are now just two points from safety!

MATCH OF THE WEEK

The Presidents Cup takes centre stage this week with newly crowned Division 3A champions SAFC Hawks travelling to Port Moody to take on the Division 2 Titans. SAFC are undefeated so far this season, with only three draws to blemish their record. Liam Priddy has led the way with ten goals while Inder Deol is in contention for the Division 3 Golden Glove award, having posted a joint best six clear sheets this year. The Hawks have also relied on the strong play of midfielder Lukas Eckert who has been known to pop up with a goal or two of his own on occasion. It was fairly straightforward for SAFC in the first round of the cup as they posted a 2-0 win over Division 4 Team Korea, but this match will give them a chance to test themselves against the level of team that they will need to be able to compete with on a regular basis next season.

For Port Moody they will be finishing mid-table in Division 2, outside of the top three. That means that if they are hoping to reach the Provincial Cup, winning the Presidents Cup is likely their best bet. Otherwise they need to hope that the winner comes from the top three of the two Div. 2 pools and that the league then gives them a chance to compete for the extra berth. Titans have been urged on by the great play of Jayson Nichol in goal this season and will look for goals from co-leading scorers Josh Marcinkow and David Peacock. You would think the higher league side would be the favourite, but with a team playing with the confidence that SAFC has this one sets up as a classically compelling cup contest!

Port Moody Titans vs. SAFC Hawks goes Sunday evening 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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