November 8, 2019

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

The theme in the **Umbro Premier League** this week was all about changing momentum. A pair of teams were able to stop the progress of two of the division early leaders while, at the same time, breaking out of slumps of their own. However, two other sides finished the weekend still just as hot and just as cold as before play began. Who left this weekend with a spring in their step and who is headed back to the drawing board? Consult our <u>UPLReview</u> for the answers to those questions, as well as the low-down on one other compelling top flight fixture where a small modicum of revenge was on the minds of reigning UPL Champions Port Moody Gunners.

This week's Match of the Week was from **Division 1** where two title chasing side, **Chilliwack FC** and **Langley United B** clashed. **Matthew Point** had two goals for Chilliwack but Langley got tallies from **Jordyn Field** and **Giancarlo Torres** as this one finished in a 2-2 draw. One would have thought this would present first place, **Port Moody Piranhas** with the perfect opportunity to extend their lead at the top, especially against lowly **Juba FC** who came into the weekend third bottom with only a single win to their name. However, there was a shock on the cards here with **Geoffrey Bringi** scoring both goals in a 2-1 win in which Port Moody were certainly not helped by the sending off of **Jordan Macdonell**. This keeps things very tight at the top, while Juba distanced themselves from the threat of relegation as the two sides below them, **Langley FC** and **North Surrey Mustangs** were both beaten. Langley lost 5-1 to **TWU Spartans B** with **Aidan Knott** notching a brace, while North Surrey fell 5-0 to **Port Moody Gunners B**. Elsewhere, Coastal FC B beat Abbotsford United U21 2-0 to climb within three points of the top three and two-time defending champs North Delta SC NEWWAY continued their march up the with a 3-1 win over TSS FC Rovers II moving them up to fifth.

Perhaps defending Division 2A champions Abbotsford United B were worried they were making things too easy on themselves. After a 2-1 loss to Westcoast FC United on goals by Connor Hoekstra and Jonas Koellmel, though, Abby are now winless in their last three matches and have lost back to back games. With Aldergrove United Lightning beating Westcoast Black Knights 2-1 thanks to goals from Dallas Schmidt and Del Muench, Abbotsford's lead is now down to just one point. Westcoast United themselves are within three points of top spot but they would need to climb over several teams to get to the top including Langley City FC, who beat PoCo FC Royals 4-1 this week, and Mission SC A who had a stats day in a 9-0 win over Surrey United Elite U21. Arron Pretty led the way with a hat trick for Mission in the win while Josh Attebe and Terry Crondahl both added braces. In Division 2B things are also getting tight at the top after the first and second place sides coming into the weekend, Langley United Dynamo and Langley United Dragons U21 drew 1-1 in a local derby. James Lee scored for the youngsters but the Dynamo's leading scorer Cam Whitters got the goal they needed to ensure the veterans remained in top spot. The draw allowed Surrey United SC to regain much of the ground a previous three match losing skid had cost them in the standings as they are back up to second place now after making it back to back wins with a 2-0 victory over last place SAFC Hawks. Meanwhile, defending champions Abbotsford SA Red Devils are trending in the other direction as, after losing to Surrey last week, they were held to a 2-2 draw this time out by TSS FC Rovers III U21. The other match in the group saw Whalley Wakanda FC A defeat WRU Vault 5-0 to make it five teams within three points of first place, exactly like in 2A.

The promotion races are starting to heat up in **Division 3**. In 3B, after running out to an early lead, **BCT Punjab FC** have seen their cushion at the top reduced to just two points. Fortunately for them they were able to maintain that edge by thumping **North Delta SC Royals** 6-1 on the back of a **Pavneet Singh Sandhu** hattrick. Their promotion rivals kept the pressure on however, as **Fraser Valley Blue Devils** also had a hattrick hero. **Purmveer Binar** scored three for the Devils and they certainly needed it as they just squeaked out a 4-3 win over **BCT Westside United** and **Langley United C** were also winners this weekend, beating **BCT Royals** 3-1, meaning both them and Fraser Valley are still within two points of Punjab. There was a hattrick as well in 3A this week as **Drew Wilson** scored all the goals for **Westside FC Strikers** in their 3-0 defeat **of Mission SC B**. Those points are not enough to get Strikers into the promotion battle as that is currently a five team race. Four of those teams played each other this past weekend. **Nicholas Stone** for **Westcoast FC Rowdies** and **Tyler Dege** from **Tri City FC** traded goals in a 1-1 tie which allowed **Langley United Impact** to move into a share of top spot with the Rowdies after they beat **Westcoast FC Juventus** 2-0 on goals by **Adam Frost** and **Jeremy Amberg**. The

loss dropped Juventus to fifth when **Langley United Highlanders** took advantage of playing a team from the bottom half with a 5-0 win over **Langley United Benders** to move the Highlanders into fourth place.

It was back to regular scheduled programing for **Brent Durie** and **Sts'Ailes Chiefs** in **Division 4** as the Chiefs returned to winning ways with a 7-1 smashing of **Westcoast FC Folly** while Durie scored another hattrick after looking somewhat human for a few weeks. That takes Durie to 17 goals for the season, giving him the best mark in all of the FVSL once more, and it also extended his lead in the Div. 4 Golden Boot over **Jason Brand** who could only manage two goals when **North Delta SC United SJ** registered a 3-1 win over **Aldergrove United**. The win was not enough to move Durie's Chiefs back into first place in 4A though, as **Port Moody Grizzles** roared to a 4-2 win over **Westcoast FC Dons**. The news was better for SJ though as 4B leaders **Offside FC** were handed their first loss of the season, 4-2, by **Langley United Studs**. That leaves SJ just one point back with a game in hand. **Juan Villalba** of **Whalley Wakanda B** also earns a mention this week for scoring all three goals for Wakanda in their 3-2 sinking of the **North Delta SC Pirates**.

Things remained relatively status quo in Masters 1 this week where Port Moody Rangers sit in top spot and maintained their perfect record with their 5-0 win over Westcoast FC Milan. Second place Chilliwack Rapids got an impressive four goal performance from Mike Perry in their 6-1 win over Langley FC Heat and Lucas Johns helped North Delta SC Rangers A climb into third place with a hattrick in a 9-1 over Guildford FC Pacific United. The top form of BCT Tigers in Masters 2 continued this week, led by Blawinder Singh Attar. Attar had two goals two weeks ago, then a hattrick last week and he once more outdid himself by scoring four goals this week in BCT's 9-2 defeat of Stolo Braves. All eyes will be on if he can score five next week! Tigers remain on top of that division but Bradner Redshits, who beat Hurricanes FC 4-0, and South Surrey FC B, who registered a 4-1 win over Westcoast FC Chargers, sit just a point back and South Surrey hold a game in hand. Meanwhile, there were no crazy score lines or individual outburst in the Over 45 Division this week, but there was a heated affair between Coastal FC Rangers and South Surrey FC Bullets. The Bullets would ultimately win the match 5-0 but not before Zsolt Szeredi and Jeff Lyons for Coastal as well as Darren Warren for South Surrey were all sent off!

MATCHOFTHEWEEK

We take a look in on Division 3A this week where an intense five-way promotion battle is raging. Two of those sides, Langley United Impact and Tri City FC clash this week. Langley sit tied for first place with Westcoast FC Rowdies while Tri City are just one point back. It has not been an easy road to this point for the Impact, but they have persevered. With five of their first seven games on the road, it meant they would be without their regular goalkeeper leaving Jordan West to deputize despite not being a natural keeper. Through it all the Impact remain undefeated. "Jason O'Hara and Jeremy Amberg have been producing on the score sheet," said manager Ross Morrison, "while Paul Atwell and Lyle Johnson have provided a great second wave from the middle."

For Tri City, they have been getting results that to scoring buy committee. While leading scorer Mark Hardy only has a modest three goals, the have already had offensive contributions from nine different players after seven games played. "It's been a couple years since we have seen Tri City," notes Morrison, "but I expect the same hard-nosed battles we played in the past. Should be a close one as always." While he is not taking anything for granted, Morrision is certainly bullish about his side's prospects: "With the return of our starting goalie and a return to home for the first time in a month, I expect a hungry Impact team to take home another victory."

Langley United Impact vs. Tri City FC goes Friday night at Willoughby Turf #2; kickoff is at 7:15pm.

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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