



Fraser Valley Soccer League



October 3, 2019

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

The group stage round of the 2019/20 Soccer City Premier League Cup is complete. However, this did not come about without some drama on the final Match Day. A pair of sides who were on the outside looking in coming into this week have made the semifinals thanks to this weekend's results. Going forward, those semi-finals take place next week, while the SC Cup will be awarded on Thanksgiving Monday, October 14.

Here's a recap of all of this week's action:

Soccer City Premier League Cup – GROUP A

Coastal FC 5-1 Langley United – Saturday 4pm; South Surrey Athletic Park #10

Coming into this match, Coastal we already assured of a place in the semi-finals. However, a loss to Langley would see United jump ahead of Coastal for first place and leave them to travel away to the first place finisher from the other group. Goals have been tough to come by for Langley having scored just one through their first two matches of the season, so it came as some relief to see **Brody Thomas** open the scoring before the match was 20 minutes old. There was also no love lost between these two teams and the referee was kept busy in the first half with tackles flying in on both sides. **Scott Barling** was bossing things in midfield for the visitors but, despite some good play and a few further chances, Langley were unable to extend their lead prior to half time. This would prove costly as Coastal regrouped at half time, made a few substitutions and emerged with much greater purpose. The home side would pull level shortly after the restart, however, things took a turn for the worse again when they had **Adam Staschuk** sent off for a recording a second bookable offense. Needing only a draw to advance, while, as mentioned, a win would have seen them top the group, Langley were certainly now in the driver's seat. Or so one would have thought. Instead it was 10-man Coastal who roared to the finish line, piling on the goals during the final stages of the match. When it was all said and done both **Isaac Kyei** and **Jake Starheim** had recorded braces while **Sean Northcote** had also scored to make the final 5-1. That score line spelled disaster for Langley, as they could have potentially progressed to the semi-finals even with a loss, had they maintained the majority of their goal difference. Instead, this now opened the door for Abbotsford United to pass them if they could win their later kickoff by two goals or more. Coastal, meanwhile, can look forward to hosting a semi-final against the Group B runners up next weekend.

Vancouver United SC 0-4 Abbotsford United – Saturday 6:15pm; Hjorth Turf #1

No doubt Abbotsford would have had sources in place to give them the updates from South Surrey regarding the Langley match as they were in North Surrey, preparing to take on Vancouver United. Once news of Langley's four goal loss trickled in, Abbotsford would have known all they needed to do to advance was defeat already eliminated Vancouver United by at least a two goal margin and they would play in the semi-finals. Still, Vancouver United were far from simply going to roll over as **Gurpreet Hundal** and his teammates put in a solid shift in an effort to play spoiler to Abby. Buoyed by the news that their fate was back in their own hands, however, Abbotsford came out of the traps flying, with the relentless work of **Roshan Gosal** and **Ben Shumbusho** tearing up the wings and the sharp work of **Colton O'Neil** in midfield creating a number of good scoring chances in the opening exchanges. The home side were resolute, but their resistance was finally breached after 25 minutes when **Connor Robillard** set up



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Abby talisman **Tyson Hunter** to open the scoring. The score remained 1-0 at half time, meaning that Abbotsford still had work to do to ensure they advanced in the competition. The visitors mounted attack after attack but it took until almost the hour mark before the second goal came. This time it was the efforts of **Connor O'Neil** in midfield to get the ball to Robillard who once more set up Hunter and he supplied the finish once again to give Abbotsford their crucial second goal. The visitors added to their lead further 15 minutes later when Gosal slipped through **Manveer Dhillon** who, rather than go for goal himself, opted to put it on a platter for Hunter to cap off his hattrick. A few minutes after that, Robillard earned a goal to go along with the pair of assists he had already registered on the night. **Dan Goodey** swung in a free kick that Gosal got on the end of and combined with **Ryan Lids** before the ball found its way to Robillard for the final touch. At 4-0, Abbotsford would have been supremely confident in advancing, especially with last season Golden Glove winner, **Mike Haladin**, backstopping them and he would once more turn away everything he faced to record a second clean sheet of the competition. So, in the end, everything went right on the night for Abbotsford as they booked their place in the semi-finals of the SC Cup. "Really happy with the performance of all of our attacking players tonight, we were sharp, hungry, dynamic and an absolute handful for our opponents," said Abbotsford manager Alan Alderson after the match. With an eye to next week's big tilt, he added "we are happy to have earned our way into the semifinals, with a little help from Coastal on the night, and look forward to an exciting game next weekend!"

Soccer City Premier League Cup – GROUP B

SAFC Red Bulls 4-0 CCB Azad – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic Turf #1

Playing Friday meant that both SAFC and CCB would have to do their best to earn the maximum number of points and then await the results of the Saturday fixtures to find out where they placed. This was the first FVSL meeting between two new top flight Surrey rivals and it hotly contested. CCB seemed to perhaps shade things in terms of possession in the first half, but it was SAFC who found a route to goal and were up 2-0 at half time. With CCB knowing that anything short of a win would eliminate them for certain from the competition, the visitors were forced to chase the game exposing them defensively. SAFC showed no mercy in firing in two further goals to make it a comfortable 4-0 win on the night. It was **Emmanuel Ekeh** with a pair to take him up to five goals in the competition, while **Brad Heffey** also notched a brace. **Ben Oskam** recorded the shutout for SAFC, though it was not entirely straightforward as he was called upon to stop a penalty with CCB sniffing for a lifeline back into the match. Despite the loss, **Armaan Hundal** had a good performance for CCB who will now get ready to begin their inaugural Umbro Premier League campaign while SAFC get ready for the SC Cup semi-finals.

Port Moody Gunners 5-0 (FFT) Surrey United Firefighters – Saturday 4pm; Trasolini Turf

It a somewhat anti-climactic end to group play, a convergence of circumstances forced Surrey United to have to forfeit their final league match against Port Moody. With several of their veteran players injured or occupied with their jobs as first responders, United had hoped to rely on the depth of the club to ensure they fielded a competitive squad. Unfortunately, with their Masters teams both playing the night before, there was no relief there and an injury Friday night to a planned U21 call up also cost them a body. Additionally, the HPL season had all the club's top level boys teams playing Saturday afternoon. In the end Firefighters were left with only eight bodies and opted to forgo the trip to the Tri-Cities. While they surely would have like to play, this was no bother to Port Moody as the result meant the defending champion Gunners now topped the group and could get ready for a semi-final match.



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SOCCER CITY PREMIER LEAGUE CUP							
Group A				Group B			
Team	Record	Points	GD	Team	Record	Points	GD
Coastal FC	3-0-0	9	12	Port Moody Gunners	2-0-1	6	9
Abbotsford United	1-1-1	4	0	SAFC Red Bulls	2-0-1	6	4
Langley United	1-1-1	4	-3	Surrey Utd. Firefighters	1-1-1	4	-4
Vancouver United SC	0-0-3	0	-9	CCB Azad	0-1-2	1	-9

SOCCER CITY PREMIER LEAGUE CUP – SEMI FINALS:

Sat 09/27/2019 4:00PM **Coastal FC vs. SAFC Red Bulls** South Surrey Ath. #10
 Sat 09/27/2019 4:00PM **Port Moody Gunner vs. Abbotsford United** Trasolini Turf

UMBRO PREMIER LEAGUE:

Sat 09/27/2019 6:15PM **Vancouver United SC vs. Langley United** Hjorth Turf #1

The Soccer City Premier League Cup semi-finals are now set and they offer up a pair of compelling matches. Coastal FC have begun the season reinvigorated after a slightly lethargic 2018/19 campaign. The South Surrey side romped to the top of Group A with three wins from three matches and a monster plus 12 goal differential. They will host newly promote SAFC who earned a spot in the semis thanks in large part to their Match Day 1 shock upset of defending UPL and SC Cup champions Port Moody. They will need to deliver a similar surprise if they hope to find themselves playing for their first piece of silverware within two months of promotion to the UPL. This match will also feature the competition's two top scorers going head to head in Coastal's Jake Starheim (6) and SAFC's Emmanuel Ekeh (5). It stands to reason that whichever side is going to progress to the final could well be determined by which of these two marksmen can continue to find the back of the net.

The other semi-final sees a tantalizing match between defending champions Port Moody and Abbotsford United. Last season Abbotsford was a bogey team for the Gunners on their way to the UPL title, taking four points off the eventual champs as one of the few sides to beat the Tri-Cities team. Of course, their last meeting saw Port Moody clinch the UPL title on Abbotsford's home turf and with that image still fresh in their minds, United would surely love nothing better than to get a measure of revenge by preventing Port Moody from repeating as SC Cup winners by knocking them out on their own patch. They are sure to be a pair of great matches and, don't forget, the Umbro Premier League also begins this weekend with Langley United travelling to take on Vancouver United!

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