



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



November 21, 2018

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

The Umbro Premier League is now closer to its end than its beginning as we have passed the half way point. Things got a little hotter under the collar for league leaders Port Moody this week with last seasons UPL title winners, Coastal FC, lurking in the weeds with their game in hand. The middle of the table remains incredibly congested as well after this week's matches as just one poor result can see you tumble down the standings if the teams around you pick up points.

*Here's a recap of all the action:*

### **Chilliwack FC 3-2 Temple Vancouver United – Friday 8:00pm; Tzeachten Turf #1**

Bottom of the league Temple were cruelly denied their first points since Opening Day after Chilliwack were able to find a winning second half goal and secure a valuable three points. It was a cracker of a first half with the sides trading goals and showing the kind of desperation that begins to show at this time of the year when you find yourself in the nether reaches of the table. **Mathew Point** was on target with a pair for the home side in the first half, however, **Harpaul Bolina** kept the FVSL new boys up to pace with Chilliwack, notching a brace of his own. The second half began with the teams all level, but that would not last, in more ways than one. Temple were reduced to 10 men when **Hardeep Khaira** was sent off in what Temple manager Brad Dhillon and the rest of his side viewed as an unjust decision. Indeed everything seemed stacked against the visitors and soon enough the score would be turned against them as well. Point would round out his hat trick to give Chilliwack a 3-2 win which vaulted them above Burnaby to sixth place in the standings ahead of a crucial clash between those two sides next week. Meanwhile, Temple, despite a hard-fought performance, were left with nothing once more and the frustration is beginning to set in. They are unlikely to get any sympathy though from local neighbours Surrey United, who they face next, so they will need to get refocused in a hurry.

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

It was back to winning ways for Coastal Saturday afternoon, halting a run of three straight draws. Other than a **David Adams** goal for the visiting Surrey United, it was pretty much all Coastal in this one. **Taylor Richardson** was stellar all over the park for the home side in this one and he was rewarded with a goal for his efforts. It was a comprehensive performance as well for talisman **Jake Starheim**, who found himself back on the scoresheet with a brace. Those were his first goals for a month, an unheard of dry spell for the man known fondly as "Big Cat," and those tallies allow him to retake the lead in the Golden Boot standings as he now has 11 goals on the season. **Shawn Parkes** rounded out the scoring for Coastal as they leap into third place with that draw. They also hold a game in hand to be played the first week of December against last placed Temple and, thanks to Port Moody's draw with Langley, that means Coastal can be in a position to reclaim the top of the table by then if they can manage a win over the Gunners this weekend. They will certainly need their big guns (and Big Cats) firing on all cylinders if they are to pull off that result, but after a tune up like this week they should go into that match rather full of confidence.



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## **Port Moody Gunners 3-3 Langley United – Saturday 4pm; Trasolini Turf**

This was a spectacular game for the neutrals out in Port Moody on Saturday evening, though perhaps neither team left overly satisfied with the outcome. Langley came out guns blazing looking for their first win for three weeks and boy did they stake a claim to it. The Gunners helped them out with a shocking defensive turnover at 28 mins. Allowing **Connor Hildebrant** to bag his seventh of the season and **Colin Jones** adding a pair (2<sup>nd</sup> ½) of his own (including an assist from another defensive miscue from Port Moody) to give the home side a 3-0 lead. Port Moody were playing out the balance with their bench now on the field but at the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute they got a lifeline when Scott Barling received a straight RED for violent conduct, this was the spark that led to an amazing, even though still very unlikely comeback. Once Port Moody had the numerical superiority they showed their class as would-be champions storming all the way back in the dying minutes to earn a share of the points. The ever-dependable **Cole Almond** (assisted by Graeme Meers)( 87<sup>th</sup> minute) was on target along with, 19 year old **Mark Talisuna**, who was putting in another MVP caliber performance and he was only fittingly rewarded with a beautiful goal (89<sup>th</sup> minute) in this one to play his part in a spectacular comeback for the Gunners. The final play of the game saw **Andrew Celenza** (93<sup>rd</sup> minute) redirect a Graeme Meers shot come cross into the corner of the net to cap off an amazing comeback! After a hard fought match neither team will be handed any respite by the schedule makers as they are slated to play the other top four sides, Abbotsford and Coastal, next weekend.

## **Abbotsford United 6-0 Burnaby Firefighters – Saturday 6pm; Mouat Turf #3**

After a fantastic stretch where they kept clean sheets in three of four games, Burnaby have not given up a whopping 17 goals in their last four matches, including six in back to back weeks. Abbotsford are certainly not the sort of side that you want to turn up to play with a leaky defense as the surprise package to this point of the UPL have already demonstrated that they are more than capable of punishing any wayward resistance. This one was almost over as soon as it started as two minutes in Colton O'Neill hit the post, in what would be one of his only misses of the day, but Brady Weir was on hand to clean up the mess and hand the home side the lead. Brother Connor O'Neill would not have the same sort of luck in front of goal on the day, blasting over from six yard soon after Abby took the lead, but Colton doubled the advantage within minutes after a set up from Tyson Hunter and Weir. Hunter continued to spray the ball from midfield and dictate the home sides attack; this time he released Kree Byrne who put the ball on a platter for Reece Brandon, United's leading goal scorer, to notch his ninth of the campaign and make it 3-0 before the half hour mark. The second half belonged to Colton however, as he would score three more goals on feeds from the ever lively Roshan Gosal as well as Atle Koellmel and Elijah Sampson. The four goal performance left Abbotsford manager Alan Alderson with no shortage of praise for O'Neill saying "Colton was his usual self on the night, finding a way to dominate and contribute regardless of where we have played him. He spent the first third of the season playing CB and outside back, but I can't even explain how fun it is to watch him play in an attacking role. He had four on the night and could have had a few more." Alderson's praise was also extended to the rest of his team, who sit second in the table. "Really pleased with our performance on the night," he said, "We moved the ball quickly and well in attack and defended as a team to ensure we didn't leak any goals like we did last week." For Burnaby, Trevor Hallam stood out on what was a bad day at the office all around



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for the visitors. They will need to sort out their hemorrhaging defense in a hurry though, as they face off with Chilliwack next week in a massive battle at the bottom of the table.



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Here's how the table looks after Week 11:

| Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A |    |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |
|--------------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Team                           | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD  | PTS |
| Port Moody SC A                | 11 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 36 | 12 | 24  | 24  |
| Abbotsford United A            | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 15 | 15  | 21  |
| Coastal FC A                   | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 24 | 11 | 13  | 19  |
| Langley United A               | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 30 | 15 | 15  | 18  |
| Surrey Utd Firefighters        | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 18 | -3  | 16  |
| Chilliwack FC                  | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 26 | -12 | 10  |
| Burnaby Firefighters           | 11 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7  | 26 | -19 | 9   |
| Temple VAN United FC           | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 43 | -33 | 1   |

## **BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK**



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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Colton O'Neill from Abbotsford United. Colton had an incredible four goal performance for Abby this week in their 6-0 win. However, regardless of whether he is scoring goals or not, Colton has been consistently a top performer for United and a huge part of the reason that he and his Abbotsford teammates currently sit second in the league.

Congratulations, Colton you have won a \$25 gift card courtesy of Brown's Social House!



## **THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE**

|                       |   |                       |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Fri 11/23/2018 8:30PM | <b>Langley United vs. Abbotsford United</b>   | Yorkson Turf          |
| Sat 11/23/2018 8:45PM | <b>Surrey United vs. Temple VAN United</b>    | Cloverdale Ath. #2    |
| Sat 11/24/2018 4:00PM | <b>Coastal FC vs. Port Moody Gunners</b>      | South Surrey Ath. #10 |
| Sat 11/24/2018 6:00PM | <b>Burnaby Firefighters vs. Chilliwack FC</b> | Burnaby Lake West #5  |

Tough to pick just one to watch this week as this may be the most compelling weekend of fixtures so far this season. Burnaby and Chilliwack are scrapping it out to pull away from last place and the automatic relegation that traditionally accompanies it. Plus they want to avoid finishing second bottom and a potential playoff to stay in the league, while at the same time a win would keep either side right on the tails of the promotion places. The Surrey derby between Firefighters and Vancouver United comes with the home side needing a win to keep pace with the top half and the visitors desperate for anything to help haul themselves off the bottom following their best performance in months. Then there is second



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place Abbotsford sitting three points up on fourth placed Langley, where they travel to Friday night, and you can bet last season's runners up are in a surely mood after their collapse against Port Moody, not to mention the fact that Abby already beat them back at the start of October. In case all that was not enough, we also have the heavyweight main event between defending champions Coastal and current league leaders Port Moody. This matchup also pits the UPL's two highest scores against one another in Graeme Meers from PoMo and Jake Starheim from Coastal. The Gunners completely dominated their first meeting with Coastal in arguably their best performance to this point of the season, winning 4-0 and, at the time, opening up some distance between them and the South Surrey side. However, after dropping points to Langley last week, and with Coastal holding a game in hand, a win for the home side would put their fate back in their own hands. Whew! It should be a spectacular weekend in the UPL!

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