



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



October 23, 2018

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

Week 7 of the Umbro Premier League marked the end of the first round of fixtures, as each team has had a chance to play on another. It was a week of upsets as this weekend's matches saw three of the four teams that came into the week in the bottom half of the table, take points off of teams from the top half. Langley continued their goal scoring bonanza and our lone remaining undefeated record fell by the wayside. After seven games is the table looking the way you thought it would?

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

## **Chilliwack FC 2-2 Coastal FC – Friday 8pm; Tzeachten Turf #1**

After being rather embarrassed at the hands of Langley last week, Chilliwack responded in the best possible fashion by taking points off of title chasing Coastal. The match began as you would expect, with Coastal flying a looking to assert their dominance. It was all systems go for the defending UPL champions, with talisman Jake Starheim netting a pair before half time to increase his lead atop the UPL Golden Boot race and to stake his side to a 2-0 lead. Coastal were looking to reel in Port Moody, who sat three points ahead of Coastal, ahead of the Gunners game on Saturday. Despite a hat-full of further chances for Starheim, Dalton San and others, the visitors could not extend their lead. Coastal should have perhaps been up by five or six goals, but instead the margin remained at just two and, as so often is the case, they were made to pay for their wasted opportunities. With a quarter of an hour left to play, Chilliwack were thrown a lifeline when they were awarded a penalty. Coastal player protested vociferously, but to no avail, and Tyler Epp stepped up to slot the ball away and half the deficit. Chilliwack had the bit between their teeth now and with the minutes ticking away they through caution to the wind and we once more rewarded. Arron Whitaker found the equalizer to earn the East Valley side an unlikely point. It was a character performance from Chilliwack, exemplified by the work rate of Dale Long who put in a top-class performance. Coastal, who were no doubt ruing their missed chances, would have been all the more dismayed when leaders Port Moody ended up losing the next day!

## **Surrey United Firefighters 0-1 Burnaby Firefighters – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic Park #2**

Don't look now, but Burnaby are one of the form team in the UPL. They are unbeaten in four, having now won two on the spin, while picking up eight points over that stretch and allowing only a single goal against. Things are really starting to come together for the team that ran away with Division 1 two seasons ago, but found it tough sledding at the top-level last year. This past weekend's win may have been the biggest win for the club since they earned their promotion. It was a scrappy game, a real midfield muck-fest, though of course, on turf; but it was a blue collar affair that saw the game enter the final stages still scoreless. Both teams had struggled to create chances of any real quality, but Surrey felt they were in the ascendancy and decided to press their luck late. Perhaps hearing that Coastal had drawn out in Chilliwack earlier, United pushed men forward in search of a winning goal to close the gap to the top teams. It backfired spectacularly. Burnaby hit on the counterattack and, after some calamitous defending, **Jordan Leib** fired home the decisive marker. Instead of climbing the table, Surrey now sit outside the top four and just one point ahead of surging Burnaby. It will be a challenge for Burnaby to keep this form going however, as they now face the current top three teams in successive



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week with the schedule resetting. They will need more top level performances from the likes of **Cole Rosenlund** if they are to take anything from those matches. Surrey have now lost back to back games for the first time this season; despite the result **David Adams** played well for the home side.

## **Abbotsford United 3-2 Port Moody Gunners – Saturday 6pm; Mouat Turf #3**

In what might be the match of the season to this point, Abbotsford stunned league leaders Port Moody with a late, come from behind victory. There was plenty of substance to go along with this one as well, with the teams turning on the style in a great advert for the UPL. It started off all well and good for the Gunners as they were up inside ten minutes, following a lovely **Cole Almond** strike after he was the benefactor of a well-placed cross from **Chris Attadia**. The chances were few and far between at this stage for Abby, but they capitalized on an opportunity against the run of play when **Reece Branion** hit a peach of a strike into the roof of the net to knot things up at one apiece. Port Moody would restore their lead before the break however, after some quality passing culminated in a beautifully flighted cross courtesy of **Jordan Marini** labelled for the forehead of **Graeme Meers**. In the second half the visitors had chances to stretch their lead, but they squandered them and would live to regret it, which was seemingly a theme across the UPL this weekend. With twenty minutes left to play, **Mahekdeep Gill** would put on a genuine display of talent, beating no fewer than four Port Moody defenders before slamming his shot “bar-down”, as the kids say (or at least they used to say that anyway...) and once more leveling the score. The Gunners were perhaps stunned by this sudden turn of events and the teams began to trade chances and with Abbotsford now carrying the momentum, it always felt like there was only going to be one ending to this story. In the end, after four high quality goals, it was a bit of an ugly one that would decide it, though it surely looked great from the Abby camp! Off the back of a broken play, **Connor O’Neill** drifted in a shot-cross that would have done Mia Hamm proud as it caught the far post and nestled in to give United a massive three points. Even though neither were on the scoresheet, **Tyson Hunter** from Abbotsford and **Julian Katz** for Port Moody also deserve a mention for their great play in this match.

## **Temple Vancouver United 1-8 Langley United – Saturday 6:15pm; Hjorth Road Turf #1**

Boom goes the dynamite! After being unceremoniously hurled out of the top four at the expense of Abbotsford following their loss to Abby two weeks ago, Langley have awoken with a vengeance. Make their tally 15 goals for and just one against over the past two games. That tally against came this week courtesy of Temple’s **Maninder Dhillon**, though it mattered not as Langley cruised to an 8-1 thrashing. There were braces for **Tyson Keam**, **Colin Jones** and **Connor Hildebrant** along with single goals for **Scott Barling** and **Devin Gilroy**. Hildebrant was the standout player of the bunch and his recent return to form has to be a massive boost for Langley as they are now right back in the title race. Meanwhile, Dhillon was the lone bright spot for Temple in their sixth successive loss. After stunning the UPL and, really, the FVSL at large by earning a draw on Opening Day against defending champions Coastal FC, it has been all downhill for the first-year team as they have failed to pick up any further points. Of paramount concern is their defensive record, having conceded an alarming 29 goals through the first third of the campaign. Temple will get a chance to take further points off Coastal when the schedules reset this week, but given their current form and the fact that Coastal will be keen to prove that Week 1 was an aberration, this could get worse for Temple before it gets better.



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Here's how the table looks after Week 7:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Port Moody SC A	7	5	1	1	19	6	13	16
Coastal FC A	7	4	2	1	18	8	10	14
Langley United A	7	4	1	2	20	7	13	13
Abbotsford United A	7	3	2	2	15	9	6	11
Surrey Utd Firefighters	7	3	0	4	7	12	-5	9
Burnaby Firefighters	7	2	2	3	6	9	-3	8
Chilliwack FC	7	1	3	3	8	18	-10	6
Temple VAN United FC	7	0	1	6	5	29	-24	1

## BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Mahekdeep Gill. Mahekdeep scored a fantastic solo goal to drag his Abbotsford United side back into the game against the league leaders, Port Moody Gunners. The goal would spark a late reversal of fortune that would see Abby go on and win the game, claiming a valuable three points that vaults them into the top half of the table while simultaneously handing Port Moody their first loss of the year. Congratulations, Mahekdeep you have won a \$25 gift card courtesy of Brown's Social House!



## THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Fri 10/26/2018 8:45PM	<b>Surrey United vs. Abbotsford United</b>	Cloverdale Ath. #2
Fri 10/26/2018 9:00PM	<b>Chilliwack Utd. vs. Port Moody Gunners</b>	Tzeachten Turf #1
Sat 10/27/2018 6:15PM	<b>Temple VAN United vs. Coastal FC</b>	Hjorth Turf #1
Sat 10/27/2018 8:00PM	<b>Burnaby Firefighters vs. Langley United</b>	Burnaby Lake West #5

One to watch this week is Abbotsford United's trip to Cloverdale to play Surrey United Firefighters. Abbotsford have replaced Surrey in the top four after a surprise win over the heretofore undefeated league leaders, Port Moody Gunners. This was Abbotsford's second big scalp of the season, having already knocked off Langley. Abby are clearly sending a message that they are able to hang with the big boys of the UPL. Surrey, though, have been stuck in second gear for most of the campaign so far. They were alternating wins and losses before they their 1-0 reversal at the hands of Burnaby Firefighters last



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time out, which made it back to back weeks with no points. They would do well to get themselves together because all four teams in the top half are playing teams from the bottom half (which now includes them) this weekend. Thus, if they cannot find a way to be a confident Abbotsford side, they stand to potentially lose some serious ground on the rest of the title contenders. The first meeting between these two on Opening Day was a narrow 2-1 win for Surrey and it feels like they might just bite your hand off if you offered them that at the minute!

Send NEWS to [media@fraservalleysoccer.com](mailto:media@fraservalleysoccer.com)

And for more information on the FVSL go to [fraservalleysoccer.com](http://fraservalleysoccer.com)



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