



Fraser Valley Soccer League



October 30, 2018

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

A curveball was thrown at the Umbro Premier League schedule in Week 8 as one match needed to be postponed due to a field conflict. Elsewhere, draws were the flavor of the week as teams begin to really get stuck into the meat of the season. That being said, one side continued their recent scoring surge. The college regular season has also come to a close, so teams may begin to get a boost from players returning to their lineup as college sides are eliminated from the playoffs, which may yet add further twists to the tale as we move forward towards the business end of the schedule.

Here's a recap of all the action:

Surrey United Firefighters 2-2 Abbotsford United – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic Park #2

In an effort to end a run of just one win in four, Surrey started the first match of the second round of fixtures brightly, only to have it blighted by the loss of centreback **John Kasper** to injury after ten minutes. Kasper adds to an ever-growing injury list for Firefighters, which might go some way to explaining their current pedestrian form. Despite the patchwork line-up, Surrey would open the scoring just before the half hour mark when leading scorer **Ethan Clayborne-Collins** or "ECC" was in the right place to finish off a low cross from winger **Stephan Leslie**. It was a rocky start for Abbotsford but with manager Alan Alderson finally able to name his preferred midfield trio of **Connor O'Neill** and brother **Colton O'Neill** along with **Tyson Hunter**, Abbotsford was able to steady the ship. Like their Surrey counterparts, it would be Abbotsford's leading scorer, **Reece Branion**, who would open the scoring for the visitors. Arsh Gill, called up from Abby's U21 side, seized on a square ball across the Surrey backline and slipped in Branion who hammered the equalizer home, post and in. Abbotsford would have the script completely flipped before half time when Colton O'Neill pressured Surrey keeper **Nuno Jesus** into a poor decision at the back and Branion would again pounce for his second of the match and eighth of the season. Surrey could not afford to simply roll over in this one, and nor did they, as they trotted out a new formation for the second half and began to take control of the match. When Abbotsford took two goal man Branion off early in the second half, things really began to tilt in Surrey's favour as Abby's main counter attacking threat was no longer a factor. Hopefully for Abbotsford's sake there was no injury concern that forced the change. Regardless Surrey pressed on, but were held at bay. Their salvation would come with five minutes remaining when talisman ECC would deflect home a corner kick. Firefighter had chances to fully complete the comeback in the final minutes but **Dave Adams** was robbed by a stellar save from Abbotsford keeper **Mike Haladin** and young **Zack Scott** overcooked a free header that he would no doubt like to have back. A point apiece, which stops the rot for Surrey while allowing Abbotsford to stay ahead of them in the table. Surrey also handed a debut to U21 player **Mike Atwell** in this one and the kid impressed in his cameo; United will be looking to see more of him over the coming months. Overall, perhaps Abbotsford manager Alderson summed it up best post game saying "This game certainly could have gone either way, and maybe the 2-2 result was the appropriate reward for both teams."



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Chilliwack FC 2-2 Port Moody Gunners – Friday 9pm; Tzeachten Turf #1

Two weeks without a win has got to be categorized as a “slump” for a Port Moody side that did not know the meaning of the word lose until last weekend. Given Coastal’s postponement, the Gunners remain top of the table, but Coastal can pull level whenever it is they get around to playing their rearranged fixture. **Jordan Marini**, who has been drawing plaudits for his assists more than his goals so far this season, did the finishing himself this week for Port Moody. Their other goal was a first of the season for **Nick Leonard** as the big guns for the team from the Tri-Cities were held in check this weekend by a plucky Chilliwack team that is finding a way to get points on the board, one way or another. In fact, this was already their fourth draw of the season. Their single point against the league leaders came courtesy of a brace from **Mathew Point** who opened his account for this UPL campaign. **John Vugteveen** was also instrumental in ensuring that the home side continued to frustrate the Gunners and came away with a share of the points. For Port Moody, they will have a chance to get back to winning ways when they take on last placed Temple next week. **Chris Attadia** was a strong performer for the Gunners, who might not like it at the minute, but will hope to look back on this game as a point earned rather than two points dropped come the end of the season.

Temple Vancouver United PPD Coastal FC – Saturday 6:15pm; Hjorth Road Turf #1

A field being double booked caused the Temple versus Coastal fixture to be postponed. The game will be made up at a later date. Given the other results this weekend, Coastal aren’t likely to mind having a game at hand against the league’s bottom team in their back pocket. On the plus side for Temple, they did not lose this week after suffering six reversals in a row!

Burnaby Firefighters 0-5 Langley United – Saturday 8pm; Burnaby Lake West #5

Whatever Langley manager Mike Wagner is putting in the water bottles for his United side, it’s definitely working. Langley lifted their goal scoring tally for the past three weeks up to an even 20 with a 5-0 win over a Burnaby side that came into this match in relatively decent form. United were perhaps always the favourites in this match given the historical pedigree of the two teams and the fact that they are red hot offensively at the minute, but a comprehensive smashing like this does catch the eye given Burnaby had only conceded a single goal and was undefeated in their four games leading up to this one. Burnaby midfielder Tyler Rosenlund played admirably and turned in his usual high-level performance for the Firefighters, but it was far from enough to hold back the Langley horde on this day. **Connor Hildebrant** continued his recent goal scoring renaissance by opening the scoring in this one, before adding another to bring his tally up to eight on the season, all scored within the last three weeks. Getting in on the goal scoring act with his first of the campaign this week was **Joseph Powell**, while **Colin Jones** and **Tyson Keam** each added their third goals of the season respectively. It would be **Colton Keam** earning his second clean sheet of the year as Langley rounded off a dominant performance. Unfortunately, the win was marred by a post-match incident involving various players and team staff. The conflict initially began with the referees, but spilled over between the two sides. The league is reviewing the incident and will issue discipline as warranted. The FVSL would like to take this opportunity to remind all players and staff members that they are to conduct themselves with the utmost respect for each other and, especially, the league’s officials. The league has zero tolerance for any conduct that violates this standard, particularly where confrontations with match officials are involved.



Fraser Valley Soccer League



Here's how the table looks after Week 8:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Port Moody SC A	8	5	2	1	21	8	13	17
Langley United A	8	5	1	2	25	7	18	16
Coastal FC A	7	4	2	1	18	8	10	14
Abbotsford United A	8	3	3	2	17	11	6	12
Surrey Utd Firefighters	8	3	1	4	9	14	-5	10
Burnaby Firefighters	8	2	2	4	6	14	-8	8
Chilliwack FC	8	1	4	3	10	20	-10	7
Temple VAN United FC	7	0	1	6	5	29	-24	1

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Mathew Point from Chilliwack FC. Mathew's first two goals of the season proved to be crucial as he earned his side a draw with top of the table Port Moody Gunners. The result means Chilliwack have taken points from four of their last five games and continue to keep things tight around mid-table while moving closer to safety from relegation.

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



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Fri 11/02/2018 8:30PM

Langley United vs. Surrey United

Yorkson Turf

Sat 11/03/2018 4:00PM

Port Moody Gunners vs. Temple VAN United

Trasolini Turf

Sat 11/03/2018 4:00PM

Coastal FC vs. Burnaby Firefighters

South Surrey Ath. #10

Sat 11/03/2018 8:00PM

Abbotsford United vs. Chilliwack FC

Mouat Turf #3

One to watch this week is Abbotsford's clash with Chilliwack. The first meeting of the season between these two sides resulted in a closely contested 1-1 draw. Since then Abbotsford have kicked on and dragged themselves into the top four, after a string of solid results. Indeed, after their draw with Surrey



Fraser Valley Soccer League



last week, Coastal are the only team that Abbotsford has failed to take points off of through eight games this year. Meanwhile, Chilliwack are proving tough to play against, week in and week out, regardless of where in the table their opponent sits, as evidenced by their four draws on the season. True, they do have a pair of lopsided losses from Opening Day against Port Moody and a trip to Langley mixed in with their results, but those appear to be outliers. The 'Whack also atoned for that opening day performance by holding first place Port Moody to a 2-2 draw in their rematch last weekend. This one has all the hallmarks of a classic, hard fought, scrappy, UPL battle and while three points for either side in this one would likely be invaluable, don't be surprised if they end up sharing the spoils.

Send NEWS to media@fraservalleysoccer.com

And for more information on the FVSL go to fraservalleysoccer.com



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