



Fraser Valley Soccer League



December 14, 2018

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

Week 14 marked the official two-thirds mark of the season as the schedule now resets on final time. Coastal managed a pair of victories, as they won their make-up game against Temple in med-week before exploding for a big result at the weekend. That means that they are on top of the table and in control of their own destiny when it comes to retaining their Umbro Premier League title. The rest of the pack are well and truly nipping at their heels, though, so we should be in for a great stretch run!

Here's a recap of all the action:

Langley United 3-1 Temple Vancouver United – Friday 8:30pm; Yorkson Turf

This was a tough week for Temple as they had a pair of top teams to deal with in the space of just five days. It looked like their recent stretch of improved performances would earn them yet another point against defending champions Coastal, only for a late goal to break up **Jaskaran Dhillon** making a bid for his first clean sheet of the season and leave Temple with no points once again for their efforts. The weekend would be no easier as Langley welcomed the Surrey side and wasted little time getting to work as they took a 1-0 lead into half time. They would double their lead before putting the game out of reach with fifteen minutes left to play. **Connor Hildebrant** had a brace for Langley while **Mike Perry** chipped in with his third goal of the year. There was still time for a consolation marker for Temple as they would ruin Langley's bid for a clean sheet late. **Jai Dhillon** saw his initial shot saved but the rebound spilled directly to **Amar Takhar** who had a tap in to ensure the visitors had something to take home with them. They would have preferred the points however, as they bid to try and stay in the league. While it is perhaps not much a surprise, Temple's loss combined with Coastal's win mean that the UPL new boys will not be winning the title in their debut season. They still have a chance to climb out of last place, but they are now running out of games to do it in.

Coastal FC 7-1 Chilliwack FC – Saturday 4pm; South Surrey Athletic Park #10

A six-point week from Coastal sees them back atop the UPL table as they look to defend their title with one-third of the season left to play. Tuesday night Coastal again struggled with UPL newcomers Temple, much as they did on Opening Day when they were held to a shock 2-2 draw. It seemed the sides would be splitting the points once more only for the UPL Golden Boot leader, **Jake Starheim**, to pop up with his fourteenth goal of the season to give Coastal the win five minutes from time. Goalkeeper **Dave Hicks** earned the clean sheet for the league leaders, making him the fourth different Coastal keeper to record a shutout this season. Starheim was eligible to play thanks to a quirk in the BC Soccer rules that specify if a player has sat his mandatory one game suspension and has not had a chance to appear in front of the discipline committee prior to his team's next game, he has to be allowed to play. The Temple game fell on a Tuesday, ahead of Wednesday's discipline hearing when Starheim would receive an additional game suspension stemming from his sending off against Port Moody. That meant Coastal had to do without him against Chilliwack on the weekend, though they hardly ended up noticing his absence. They were on the front foot from the first whistle and put up seven with **Sean Northcote** and **Taylor Richardson** both registering hat tricks. **Dalton San** would add the other Coastal marker while **Dale Long** had the sole reply for Chilliwack; a lone bright spot on a day to otherwise forget for the visitors.



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Port Moody Gunners 1-1 Abbotsford United – Saturday 4pm; Trasolini Turf

It was yet another frustrating encounter for Port Moody against Abbotsford, who were the team to hand the Gunners their first loss of the UPL season back in October. It was a tight affair between two teams looking to stay within touching distance at the top of the table. In the end, neither would get the result that they truly desired, as splitting the points means both sides lose ground on the league leaders. It was nip and tuck through the first half, though Port Moody seemed to have the better chances only to be denied by the frame of the goal and a fantastic save from reigning Brown's Player of the Week. Abby goalkeeper **Mike Haladin**. Come the second half however, the Gunners made good on one of their first looks. Within minutes of the restart **Mark Talisuna** popped up at the top of the box, found some space and stoked a sumptuous finish into the back of the net to open the scoring. It was no less than what Port Moody have come to expect from Talisuna as the midfielder who puts in seemingly automatic top quality performances weekly was rewarded with his fifth UPL goal of the campaign. United would respond in quick fashion, ramping up the offensive pressure and seeing a pair of chances cleared off the line. Yet another Abby youngster was at the centre of their equalizer as fifteen-year-old **Mohit Bhatoo** put in a challenge that was beyond his years and the ball fell kindly to **Tammer Byrne** who connected sweetly with his volley to knot the score at 1-1. Port Moody were back on the front foot to finish the game, but once again it was Haladin standing in their way with yet another top drawer save. Asked for his thoughts after the match, Abbotsford manager Alan Alderson had this to say: "Lots of fun games this year and this was another one of those real tight battles that we will come away from realizing either team could have ended up with the three points and a tie was probably the fair result." There was another solid performance for Abbotsford's **Colton O'Neill** as he worked hard to contain the like of Talisuna and the Gunners other threats while Alderson said his squad was left feeling "satisfied with a good effort and happy to come away with a point from a difficult opponent."

Burnaby Firefighters 0-0 Surrey United Firefighters – Saturday 6:30pm; Burnaby Lake West #5

Saturday proved to be a difficult task for a Surrey side that travelled to Burnaby with less than their first choice roster. Certainly the home side were in no mood to offer much sympathy, as Burnaby continue to scrape and claw for points in an effort to avoid any possibility of having to take part in a relegation playoff. It was to be the battle of the goalkeepers in the end with **Nuno Jesus** standing tall in the Surrey goal and being sharp when called upon to bail out he teammates who spent most of the evening defending. When United did get a chance to venture forward, they found Burnaby's **James Pistrin** more than up to the task. Pistrin was particularly useful in denying **Josh Miles** who seemed to be responsible for the bulk of whatever the travelling Firefighters could muster offensively. As it was, nobody would find a way through on this night with Jesus and Pistrin notching their third and fourth clean sheets respectively.



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Here's how the table looks after Week 14:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Coastal FC A	14	8	4	2	35	15	20	28
Langley United A	14	8	3	3	37	17	20	27
Port Moody SC A	14	7	4	3	39	18	21	25
Abbotsford United A	14	7	4	3	33	18	15	25
Surrey Utd Firefighters	14	7	2	5	20	20	0	23
Burnaby Firefighters	14	2	6	6	10	29	-19	12
Chilliwack FC	14	2	5	7	17	36	-19	11
Temple VAN United FC	14	0	2	12	14	52	-38	2

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Mark Talisuna from Port Moody Gunners. Mark had yet another sensational performance for the Gunners, scoring Port Moody's only goal in their 1-1 draw with Abbotsford. While he and his teammates would have no doubt preferred all three points, Mark was once again chosen as his side's MVP, making it the seventh time in fourteen games that he has been selected MVP, a league best. Congratulations Mark, you have won a \$25 gift card courtesy of Brown's Social House!



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Thu 12/13/2018 8:30PM	Port Moody Gunners vs. Chilliwack FC	Trasolini Turf
Fri 12/14/2018 8:30PM	Langley United vs. Burnaby Firefighters	Yorkson Turf
Sat 12/15/2018 4:00PM	Coastal FC vs. Temple VAN United	South Surrey Ath. #10
Sat 12/15/2018 6:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. Surrey United	Mouat Turf #3

One to watch this week is Abbotsford against Surrey. Despite their strong performances throughout the season, Abbotsford have not been able to get any separation in the top four. They will finally have a chance to put some breathing space between themselves and fifth place Surrey if they can manage to take all three points this weekend. For Surrey, they have seemingly played the fifth-wheel all season, but have once again put themselves in a position to vault into the top four and stay within touching distance of the title. Although they have managed to see off seemingly all challengers at some point so



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far this season, Surrey are actually the only side that Abbotsford have not beaten this year. The Firefighters were 2-1 winners on Opening Day and then the reverse fixture was a 2-2 draw. Abby will get their third and final crack at Surrey in the UPL this week and it is easily to most important to date.

Another fixture worth keeping an eye on is Coastal hosting Temple. Even though it is a case of first against last, Temple has, for whatever reason, seemed to cause Coastal problems. They surprised Coastal, and most of the league, when they came from behind to take a point of the defending champions on Opening Day and almost earned another draw when the two teams met just a week and a half ahead of this weekend. It took a late goal to ensure that Coastal won that match and returned to their perch atop the UPL; though they did follow that win up with a 7-1 mauling of Chilliwack last time out. It will be interesting to see what kind of match this third meeting between these sides brings.

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