



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



September, 14, 2018

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

The FVSL's Umbro Premier League kicked off its season this past weekend on the grass during Opening Day at Newton Athletic Park, hosted by Temple United. Mother nature did not cooperate as the rain was pouring, a sure sign that it must be soccer season once again! While the conditions may have affected the spectacle slightly, all the players and teams were up for it and it was clear the enthusiasm was bubbling for the curtain to come up.



*Langley United and Burnaby Firefighters ready to kick off the 2018/19 UPL Season*

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

## **Langley United 2-1 Burnaby Firefighters – Sunday 2pm; Newton Athletic #8**

The season kicked off with Langley taking on Burnaby Firefighters as their match started just moments before the game on the adjacent pitch. Langley had the first goal of the new UPL season after 15 minutes when **Scott Barling** wanted a loose ball in the attacking goal area more than everyone else around him. United then doubled their lead on the half hour mark thanks to a nice finish by **Mike Perry**. If Langley thought they were home and dry, which likely would have been a nice feeling given the weather, they were jolted back to reality when **Trevor Hallam** opened the Firefighters account for the 2018/19 campaign just minutes into the second half. Predictably this led to the Burnaby side pressing for an equalizer and that left gaps for Langley to counter attack. Marquee summer signing **Connor Hildibrant** looked sure to seal the points for Langley when he rounded the goalkeeper and had the net



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at his mercy, but he inexplicably put his finish the wrong side of the post. Unable to kill the game off, Langley turned to their stalwart goalkeeper Andrew Hicks to ensure they got all three points. Burnaby was coming in waves late, but Hicks had all the answers with a handful of crucial saves in the dying minutes. Despite the loss, Burnaby left with heads high after a decent performance, particularly by **Tyler Rosenlund (ex Toronto FC MLS)** who was noticeable all game.

## **Port Moody Gunners 4-0 Chilliwack FC – Sunday 2pm; Newton Athletic #9**

It was a tight first half between Port Moody and Chilliwack with little to give between the two sides until **Julian Katz** would open the scoring for Moody with a cracker that flew past the keeper and in at the far post. It was nip and tuck until finally the team from the Tri-Cities broke open the flood gates when **Graeme Meers** got on the end of a neat give and go to double the Port Moody lead. It was party time when **Chris Attadia** made it 3-0 with 20 minutes to play before **Jon Craig** would open his Gunner's account to round out the scoring. **Kevin Comeau** and **Nick Leonard** also put in strong shifts in what manager Larry Moro described as "a total team effort" for Port Moody. Although he was on the wrong side of the score line, **Dale Long** stood out for Chilliwack as they will try to regroup for Week 2.

## **Coastal FC 2-2 Temple Vancouver United; Sunday 4pm; Newton Athletic #8**

It looked to be business as usual for last season's champions, Coastal FC, as they picked up right where they left off against Umbro Premier League newcomers Temple Vancouver United. **Cameron Parkes** and **Lucas Kozlowski** fired Coastal to a first half lead that their play fully merited. It was a classic tale of two halves though, with Temple coming on strong through the second 45 minutes. **Jaskirat (Jassa) Sanghera** scored Temple's first ever UPL goal when he danced almost untouched through the Coastal defenders. The game saw tempers flair at various points with several yellow cards handed out as the new kids on the block continued to try and prove they deserved to share the ground with current UPL royalty. Their plucky persistence would pay off in the dying minutes, having wrestled control of the game away from Coastal, Sanghera popped up with his, and Temple's, second of the game which would be enough to share the points. Along with Sanghera, **Jai Dhillon** was key to United's efforts, particularly with his job of keeping Coastal's ever dangerous and speedy **Isaac Kyei** in check. Temple will have turned heads with this result, now the pressure will be on to continue to deliver.

## **Abbotsford United 1-2 Surrey United Firefighters – Sunday 4pm; Newton Athletic #9**

In what was always likely to be a closely contested match, Surrey United Firefighters managed to just get the edge on Abbotsford United in their opener. Both teams were grappling with poor field condition as the day at Newton drew to a close, with players on both sides struggling for footing at times. Abby would take the lead when a stellar run by **Connor O'Neil**, who was a handful for Surrey to deal with all game, that drew a penalty for **Reece Branion** to convert and tie the game. SU had taken the lead in the



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game when **Ethan Clayborn-Collins** got on the end of a **Josh Miles** cross and applied the finishing touch. It was a low bouncer to the corner that might not make the highlight reels, but they all look the same on the scoresheet! A pair of new signings stood out for Surrey on the day with **Raqi Amijee** bossing their midfield and goalkeeper **Nuno Jesus** stepping up when called upon; including a point blank save on a header from a cross in close. Per assistant coach Dave Hleucka on Jesus's reflexes, "cats are lining up to take lessons." Not to be outdone, Abbotsford goalkeeper **Mike Haladin** proved some key saves of his own and **Tyson Hunter** was key in their midfield. With the teams ringing the changes as the minutes wore down in the second half, it looked likely that this one would finish in a stalemate. That is until substitute **Josh Gould** fired home from close range with ten minutes to play and his strike would be the difference. Despite the loss, Abbotsford head coach Alan Alderson was "pleased with a promising performance from our group and especially the integration of a handful of young players."

**After Week 1 the table is as follows:**

## Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Port Moody SC A	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
Langley United A	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Surrey Utd Firefighters	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Temple VAN United FC	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Coastal FC A	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Abbotsford United A	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Burnaby Firefighters	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Chilliwack FC	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

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The Brown's Social House Player of the Week for Week 1 is **Jassa Sanghera** from Temple Vancouver United. Jassa scored both goals for Temple as the league new boys came back to earn their first ever UPL point against defending league champions Coastal FC. Congratulations Jassa, you've won a \$25 gift card, courtesy of Brown's Social House.





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## THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Fri 9/14/2018 8:00PM	<b>Chilliwack FC vs. Abbotsford United A</b>	Tzeachten Park #1
Fri 9/14/2018 8:45PM	<b>Surrey Utd Firefighters vs. Langley United A</b>	Cloverdale Ath. Park #2
Sat 9/15/2018 6:15PM	<b>Temple VAN United FC vs. Port Moody SC A</b>	Hjorth Road Turf #1
Sat 9/15/2018 7:00PM	<b>Burnaby Firefighters vs. Coastal FC A</b>	Burnaby Lake W #2

One to watch this week would be Surrey United hosting Langley United. These two local rivals last faced each other in the Provincial Cup in April when Langley came from behind and ultimately ended Surrey's season in penalties. Both teams got the job done on the sloppy grass at Newton on opening day, though only just, via identical 2-1 score lines. A second win on the bounce would help really kick start the season for one of these two teams and, even though it is only Week 2, it is never too early to start thinking about the title race. With Coastal dropping points in their opener, the winner here would be guaranteed to be one of only at most two perfect teams, the other with a chance for six points from six to start the season is Port Moody. So then, lots to play for in this one, even at this early stage, which should throw a dash of extra spice into a rivalry that rarely needs to be stoked.

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