



Fraser Valley Soccer League



October 10, 2018

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

A fully thanksgiving slate of games provided more twists and turns in the Umbro Premier league. The top of the table was settled, at least temporarily, while rest of the league looked to either kick on after a positive week or bounce back from some poor performances. For the first time this season we have a new name inside the top four and the bottom of the table is starting to get tight ahead of some crucial early season relegation battles. Let's give thanks for Week 5 of the UPL!

Here's a recap of all the action:

Chilliwack FC 1-1 Burnaby Firefighters – Friday 8pm; Tzeachten Turf #1

Both of the sides were looking to build on break through performances from Week 4 when they met on Friday night. Burnaby had earned their first point of the season, grinding out a 0-0 draw with Abbotsford United while Chilliwack had finally put it all together to earn their first win against Temple Vancouver United. With each of these teams still mired far too close to the relegation trapdoor for their liking, this game was a massive chance for one of these sides to put some distance between themselves and the UPL basement. Sadly, neither team was able to capitalize on this opportunity or, perhaps from a neutral perspective, this was fortunate as relegation battles can often be rather entertaining. **Nathan Olson** would get himself on the scoresheet for Chilliwack but **Erik Rasmussen** would score for Burnaby, meaning that it would end up being a point a piece after the final whistle. **Tyler Epp** continued to play well for the 'Wack, adding to his early season collection of good form. For the Firefighters, GK **James Pistrin** made an impression as the Burnaby boys are still in search of their first win. Overall, based on both performances, a draw was likely a fair result in this one.

Port Moody Gunners 4-0 Coastal FC – Saturday 4pm; Trasolini Turf

We thought this one would be one to watch, but perhaps the message did not reach the Coastal FC camp because the score line would suggest that they might not have turned up out in the Tri-Cities. Port Moody started this top of the table showdown brightly and had their visitors from South Surrey on their heels early. **Graeme Meers** had a first half brace for the Gunners, firing the home side to an early two goal lead. **Mark Talisuna** continued to put in his usual MVP level performance playing behind the attackers for Port Moody as he pulled the strings through midfield. His opposite number, Coastal talisman **Jake Starheim**, too was at his usual high standard and he nearly dragged the UPL defending champions back into this one, only to see his curling effort spectacularly saved by Port Moody keeper, **Richard Meister**. Just before halftime, Starheim would again look to have earned a lifeline for his side when he drew a penalty after the referee judged him to have been fouled inside the area. It would be Jake who stepped up to the spot only to be foiled once more by Meister. In the second half the Gunners sat deep and absorbed the Coastal attacks led by Starheim and **Mark Baldesimo**, while looking to hit on the counter attack. Despite conceding the majority of possession and chances to Coastal, the Port Moody strategy worked with second half substitute **Jordan Marini** coming on to bag a brace of his own. In the end, an unflattering day at the office for Coastal who cede the top of the table back to Port



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Moody, after having reeled them in last week. The Gunners are now the only side left on the UPL yet to lose this season.

Abbotsford United 1-0 Langley United – Saturday 6pm; Mouat Turf #3

Abbotsford United goalkeeper **Mike Haladin** is so hot that he's making opposing teams ice cold. Haladin backstopped his Abby side to a third successive clean sheet and, with it, helped Abbotsford leapfrog Langley into the top four. The decisive tally came with roughly a quarter of the game left to play from **Roshan Gosal** who finished off a pretty counter attack that started with a tackle by 15-year-old **Mohit Bhatoa** winning a tackle at left back. Bhatoa was one of four teenagers in the Abby line up and one of three making his UPL debut. There is nothing new about **Colton O'Neill** though, who continues to turn in top notch performances and this week anchored a young defense that saw off all challenges from the visiting Langley United. Unsurprisingly, manager Alan Alderson was elated with his team's performance calling it "overall a beautiful and fantastic team performance" adding that he was "proud of our core and so proud of our young players that came in and brought their very best to the occasion." On the flip side, it is not quite time to hit the panic button for Langley, but last season's Provincial Cup finalists are now winless in their last three games, having only scored a single goal over that span. **Liam McAllister** showed well in a losing effort, but he and his teammates will back to the drawing board as they look to end this mini tale spin before the first round of fixtures concludes in a couple of weeks.

Temple Vancouver United 1-2 Surrey United Firefighters – Saturday 8:15pm; Hjorth Turf #1

Surrey United got the bounce back performance they desperately needed after being humbled at home to Coastal in Week 4. This one began with some rather loose play by both sides until Surrey managed to get a fork in things around the halfway point of the opening period. Still short on bodies for various reasons, the Firefighters were forced to rely on ageless wonder **Taki Vohalis** to fill out their roster and what a decision that turned out to be. Signed to Surrey United SC B in Masters Division 1, Vohalis registered his fourth goal of the year, scored for his third different team! Already with a pair to his name in Masters Division 1, he has scored for Surrey United SC A in Masters Premier and then added the opener in this fixture for Firefighters to his collection just before half time. Temple did not wilt however, and nearly leveled things just after the restart when a long-range effort caught the crossbar before a laser beam from fully 25 yards out struck the post with Surrey keeper **Nuno Jesus** rooted to the spot. Even though Temple were pressing, it was Surrey who would find the next goal when the ever industrial **Ethan Claibourne-Collins** finished off a neat build up with less than half an hour to go. The lack of numbers seemed to finally hit Surrey after they grabbed a two-goal lead, as they were left hanging on over the final minutes. **Amar Takhar** and **Maninder Dhillon** began to dictate play in the midfield and the UPL new boys were rewarded with a goal ten minutes from time when youth call up **Hardeep Khera** nodded home a free kick. There was to be no grandstand finish on this day however, as Temple were left still searching for their first points since opening day. Manager Brad Dhillon saw the positives in his sides performance however, noting it was a "much better game from the Temple boys" when compared to recent result and that "overall it was a good team effort."



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Here's how the table looks after Week 5:

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

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is **Richard Meister** from Port Moody Gunners. Meister recorded his second clean sheet of the UPL season in blanking last year title winners, Coastal FC, en route to the Gunners 4-0 win. Despite the score line ultimately being lopsided, Meister made a pair of big saves, including stopping a penalty, just before half time to ensure his team remained up 2-0.

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



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Fri 10/12/2018 8:30PM

Langley United vs. Chilliwack FC

Yorkson Turf

Sat 10/13/2018 4:00PM

Coastal FC vs. Abbotsford United

South Surrey Ath. #10

Sat 10/13/2018 4:00PM

Port Moody Gunners vs. Surrey United

Trasolini Turf

Sat 10/13/2018 8:00PM

Burnaby Firefighters vs. Temple VAN United

Burnaby Lake West #5

One to watch this week is the early season relegation battle between Burnaby Firefighters and Temple Vancouver United. These two currently sit seventh and eighth respectively in the UPL table, with both teams still looking for their first wins of the campaign. Temple started their life in the FVSL brightly with a shock dry against Coastal FC on Opening Day. It has been frustration for the new boys ever since however, including a 9-0 embarrassment at the hands of Abbotsford United. The performances over the



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last two weeks have been more encouraging though. Burnaby started the season with three straight losses but come into this game on the heels of a pair of draws as their workmanlike efforts are finally starting to pay off with some points in the standings. No doubt that both of these sides will know that the results of their head to head meetings will determine who stays up and who goes down come February. Let's hope some early season desperation delivers a cracker of a match Saturday night!

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