



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



November 8, 2019

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

The Umbro Premier League table has shifted once more this week. After leading the way since the beginning of the year, a second successive loss draw Abbotsford drop into a three-way tie for third place. Meanwhile, Surrey United maintained their perfect start to the campaign and took over on top, two points ahead of Coastal. It is looking like we will have quite the title race on our hands this season with perennial contenders Langley and defending champions Port Moody also picking up wins this week.

*Here's a recap of all of this week's action:*

### **CCB Azad 0-3 Langley United – Friday 8:45pm; Newton Athletic Park #3**

Riding back to back wins into this match, Langley were looking to make it three wins in a row after suffering that many losses in succession immediately prior to this run of good form. Standing in their way was a CCB side hoping to build off of their first point of the season in a 0-0 draw with Coastal. The home team started out on the front foot creating a handful of early chances, but Langley goalkeeper **Hudson Nelles** had all the answers. Slowly Langley's tough tackling a physical play began to see them wrestle control of the match away from CCB and get their noses in front. CCB goalkeeper **Josh Banipal** made a number of good saves throughout the match, but he was unable to keep Langley at bay forever. United fullback **Devil Gilroy** had a fantastic game and was rewarded with not one, but two goals while **Body Thomas** added another to give him 15 on the season already in all competitions, though he would go on to add three more goals for Langley's Division 1 side on Sunday to bring his total to 18 goals by the end of the weekend. **Navraj Purewal** and **Harman Aujla** played well for CCB, but simply could not find a way to get their team on the score sheet. For Langley, in addition to Gilroy, **Nicholas Cantelon** also had a strong match to help United climb back into the UPL title race.

### **Surrey United Firefighters 4-2 SAFC Red Bulls – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic Park #2**

Having climbed to the top of the UPL table last week, Surrey United were determined to stay there and, in doing so, maintain their perfect start to the league season. It was far from straightforward, however, as SAFC made Surrey work for this result. Surrey's **Ethan Claiborne-Collins**, who scored his first four goals of the season last week, showed that he had well and truly rediscovered his scoring touch as he was in the right place at the right time to tap in United's opener after **Ryan Uppal** stole the ball from the SAFC defenders before bombing down the line and cutting back an inch perfect cross. Surrey's second goal was almost a carbon copy of the first, just with different players providing the end product. This time after some nice build up it was **Josh Miles** charging down the wing and supplying the service for **Tom Lowndes** to redirect goalward. SAFC were missing their leading scorer **Emmanuel Ekeh**, who was suspended, but they have proven already this season that any team assuming the newly promoted boys will be a pushover are in for a rude awakening. Even without their talisman, Red Bulls found a way to goal courtesy of strong play in the middle of the park from **Hamadoun Issabre** and **James Heffey**, who also served as the goal scorers. Their first goal came when Surrey's Miles blew a tire and left the ball behind, leading to a simple finish, while the second goal was via a classic hard-nosed set piece. SAFC got on the end of a free kick and headed it back across the face of goal where they took advantage of some sloppy Surrey defending to win the second ball and nod it home. As the match wore on SAFC was searching for a winner, but they could not muster anything Surrey keeper **Nuno Jesus** could not handle. This one seemed headed for a stalemate, but in the dying minutes Uppal popped up again for Surrey.



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



Claiborne-Collins held up a long ball and rolled it into the path of Uppal who smashed it on target and, despite the keeper getting a hand to it, the ball trickled into the net for the winner and a well-deserved reward for Uppal's performance on the night. With SAFC now behind they pushed desperately forward in search of a miracle equalizer. It was not to come though and, instead, there was time for Surrey to add another. **Tyler Henderson** caught the Red Bulls on the counter attack and slid the ball to Claiborne-Collins who put the finishing touches on another win for United. **Brandon Nair** played well in the loss for SAFC while **Ryan Donald** at fullback for Firefighters was also excellent on the night.

## **Port Moody Gunners 2-1 Abbotsford United – Saturday 4pm; Trasolini Turf**

After suffering their first loss of the season to Langley last weekend, Abbotsford were looking for an immediate return to winning way. Recent nemeses Port Moody were their opponents this week and these two teams have seen plenty of each other lately. The Gunners took an early lead on twenty minutes when **Cole Almond** was the first to react to a corner that dropped in the Abbotsford area and was not cleared. However, the visitors got back on level terms when, ten minutes into the second half, **Brady Weir** split through the Port Moody defense and was taken down inside the area. **Sahib Phagura** stepped up and converted the penalty to knot things up at one goal apiece. Unfortunately, having just found a way back into the match, Abbotsford then conceded a penalty of their own that was finished clinically by Port Moody's **Graeme Meers** to restore the lead for the Gunners with half an hour left to play. After falling behind a second time, Abbotsford then found another gear and began to dictate the match. Wide men **Roshan Gosal** and **Ishwar Bhatti** terrorized the Gunners defenders and put in ball after ball for the likes of **Atle Koellmel**, Wier and a newly healthy, though not yet fully fit, **Tyson Hunter**. However, Port Moody goalkeeper **Richard Meister** was putting on a clinic in net for the Gunners. United had numerous chances to tie the game, but he repelled every one of them to ensure Port Moody held on for all three points. It was a tough result for Abbotsford manager Alan Alderson who acknowledged his team's effort, but was frustrated to have nothing to show for it saying "I was quite pleased with our work rate, effort and persistent forays into the attacking third," adding that "we go away extremely disappointed to not have any points to show for our performance."

## **Coastal FC 8-0 Vancouver United SC – Saturday 4pm; South Surrey Athletic Park #10**

Coming off a surprise scoreless draw against UPL new boys CCB last time out, it came as no surprise that Coastal were keen to flex their attack muscles one more as they welcomed last place Vancouver United to South Surrey Athletic Park. It was another slow start for Coastal though in this one and when United goalkeeper **Jaryed Lee** made a fantastic penalty save in the first half, Coastal were surely wondering just to where their free-scoring form had disappeared. It was a good first half for Vancouver United, but they failed to take any chances they managed to create in what is beginning to become something of a familiar refrain for the struggling side. When their defense was breached on a corner kick to give Coastal a 1-0 lead at half time, things were looking worrisome once more for United. However, it is likely even they could not have predicted the collapse that was about to occur. Coastal would another gear entirely while Vancouver United succumbed to midfield injuries that essentially meant it was open season for Coastal. When all was said and done the electric **Isaac Kyei** had registered a hat-trick while **Amardeep Mander** had a brace. Of course, talisman **Jake Starheim** was never far from the action and in addition to putting in much of the hard work to create openings for Coastal he took the chance to help himself to a pair of goals as well on the night. **Lucas Rimmer** rounded out the barrage for Coastal, while **Kyle Gibson** should be highlighted for provided some top quality service and **Andrew Kowan** recorded the clean sheet. **Gurpreet Hundal** played well for United but it was not nearly enough in this one.



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**Here's how the UPL Table looks after Week 6:**

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Surrey Utd Firefighters	4	4	0	0	12	3	9	12
Coastal FC A	4	3	1	0	14	3	11	10
Abbotsford United A	5	3	0	2	16	7	9	9
Langley United A	6	3	0	3	13	10	3	9
Port Moody SC A	4	3	0	1	8	5	3	9
SAFC Red Bulls	5	2	0	3	11	13	-2	6
CCB Azad	4	0	1	3	1	9	-8	1
Vancouver United SC	6	0	0	6	1	26	-25	0

## **BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is **Richard Meister** from Port Moody Gunners. Meister was invaluable in the Gunners 2-1 win over Abbotsford this week, making numerous saves in the second half to preserve a one goal win for Port Moody. Abbotsford had the Gunners goal under siege over the final half an hour, but Meister refused to be beaten.

Congratulations Richard, you've won a \$25 gift card to Brown's Social House!



## **THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE:**

Fri 11/08/2019 8:45PM	<b>SAFC Red Bulls vs. Coastal FC</b>	Cloverdale Ath. #1
Fri 11/08/2019 9:00PM	<b>Langley United vs. Port Moody Gunners</b>	Yorkson Turf
Sat 11/09/2019 6:00PM	<b>Abbotsford United vs. Surrey Utd. Firefighters</b>	Mouat Turf #3
Sat 11/09/2019 6:00PM	<b>Vancouver United SC vs. CCB Azad</b>	Hjorth Turf #1

This week Surrey United put their perfect record on the line against an Abbotsford team that, after a perfect start of their own, have now lost two straight matches. Surrey currently sit atop the UPL table but Coastal and Port Moody are breathing hard down their neck. However, those sides are not in for easy matches this week either as Port Moody must travel to suddenly surging Langley who have won two in a row while Coastal tangle with the unpredictable SAFC. However, while all those matches are thoroughly important for the effect they will have on the title race as well as Provincial Cup qualification,



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perhaps the most intriguing fixture on the docket this weekend is at the bottom of the table. Both CCB and Vancouver United are without a win to their names and with the threat of possible relegation looming over this match, one would expect to see a pair of highly motivated sides. Both teams have scored only a lone goal this season, though CCB has a point on the board after a hard fought scoreless draw with Coastal. They will hope that defensive pedigree serves them well this week against a Vancouver United side who have developed a penchant for second half collapses in recent matches.

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