



Fraser Valley Soccer League



December 25, 2019

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

While the Umbro Premier League represents the top tier for players and coaches in the Fraser Valley Soccer League, it should also be remembered that the UPL also provides the pinnacle for refereeing in the FVSL. To that end the league was excited to appoint referee Jon Hutchison to this week's UPL match between SAFC Red Bulls and Vancouver United. At 23, Hutchison becomes the second youngest referee to earn his way to the top level of the FVSL. Look for a longer feature on Hutchison in our weekly Newsletter! Meanwhile, Vancouver United earned their first point of the season in that match this week, while Abbotsford and Coastal are doing their best to make it a two horse race at the top!

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

Surrey United Firefighters 1-1 Langley United – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic Park #2

The hottest team in the UPL, Langley United, headed to Cloverdale for a showdown with fierce rivals Surrey United having won four in a row. The game was intense and physical with challenges flying in an abundance of extracurricular activities to keep the officiating crew on their toes. Surrey were forced to use stretch their resources in this match with no fewer than seven players in plain clothes watching on from the sidelines due to injury. Fortunately, they were able to call on the services of **Nick Fussell** for the first time this season and he put on a masterful midfield display along with **Nico Marcina** and 15-year-old youth call up **Jovan Sidhu**. Firefighters were playing some of their best football of the season in this match, with crisp link up and attacking play that had Langley's defenders scrambling on more than one occasion. However, Langley fullbacks **Devin Gilroy** and **Cody Dunn** were putting in top efforts on this night and were often in the right place at the right time to make the crucial tackle. They also helped ensure Langley remained an attacking threat with Dunn providing them the opening goal. He sent a tantalizing cross into the penalty area that **Tyson Keam** met with a spectacular diving header which Surrey keeper **Nuno Jesus** could only tip his hat to along with the other spectators. Langley had only conceded one goal during their four game run, so it no doubt came as a shock to them when **Raq Amjee**, who due to Surrey's injury crisis was forced into a central defender role along with **Vince Stewart**, could not resist his midfielder instincts and went surging up the field. He played a nice give-and-go with **Ethan Clayborne-Collins** and then slotted his finish past the on-rushing **Hudson Nelles** in the Langley goal. Just before the hour mark the emotion boiled over forcing both sides to play the final half hour with only ten men each. There would be no further scoring as the teams shared the spoils in yet another enthralling chapter of this rivalry that surely has the teams circling the reverse fixtures on their calendars!

CCB Azad 1-4 Abbotsford United – Friday 8:45pm; Newton Athletic Park #4

Once more at the top of the UPL table, Abbotsford were looking to extend their stay in first place with a win over CCB. The UPL and FVSL newcomers have been putting in good performances of late however, and they mustered another solid effort this week. Despite having more of the ball and a handful of good set piece opportunities, Abbotsford were held off the scoresheet in the first half and went into the break level. Having given a good account of themselves in the first period, CCB came storming out of the gates after the restart and would have taken the lead if not for a sharp save by Abbotsford's **Mike Haladin**. This seemed to be the wake up call that United needed to get out of first gear and less than ten minutes later **Connor O'Neill** played a lovely ball through to **Brady Weir** who tucked it home to give Abby the lead. A few minutes later they doubled their advantage when this time **Colton O'Neill** set up **Reece**



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Branion who hammered his shot home. CCB were still making a go of thing and pulled one back with just over a quarter of an hour remaining thanks to a lovely finish from **Pawandeep Chahal**. Abbotsford immediately snuffed out any potential for a momentum swing though when Weir notched his second of the night, once again set up by Connor O'Neill. The ever influential **Gagan Josan** did his best to drag CCB back into the game, but despite good performances from him and **Brennan Naiker**, there was to be no joy for the home side on this night. Branion put an exclamation point on Abbotsford's night adding a fourth goal in the dying minutes thanks to a great bit of skill to set him up from **Ben Shumbusho**, who had been a threat all evening as was rewarded with an assist. **Roshan Gosal** also turned in his regular top effort on this as well as **Ryan Liddiard** who was unlucky not to add his name to the scoresheet in injury time when he got on the end of a Colton O'Neill corner. "Really pleased with our work tonight as we defended well," said Abbotsford Manager Alan Alderson after the match, adding that his team "really started to shine as the game went on and were able to create a lot of chances."

Coastal FC 4-0 Port Moody Gunners – Saturday 4pm; South Surrey Athletic Park #10

It was all Coastal straight from the off in this match with the home side completing dominating play in a one-sided first half. By the break Coastal were up by two and this forced Port Moody into a number of changes, including a season debut for reigning UPL MVP **Mark Talisuna**. The changes help and the Gunners began to resemble the team that convincingly won the UPL title last season but they could not solve Andrew Nemeth in the Coastal goal. The home side absorbed the Port Moody pressure and picked their moment to kill off the match adding a third goal before **Isaac Kyei** rounded out the evening's scoring by picking up his second of the match late in the game. Coastal's other goal scorers were **Spencer DeBoice** and **Taylor Richardson**. While he did not get on the scoresheet himself, Coastal's **Justin Turner Pierce** was an absolute force all night long, putting in a top performance. The win keeps within touching distance of first place Abbotsford United, just two points back with a game in hand.

Vancouver United SC 0-0 SAFC Red Bulls – Saturday 6:15pm; Hjorth Turf #1

Without a point to their name so far this season, Vancouver United SC were desperate for any kind of result to potentially kick start their season. United were feeling the effects of an early season injury crunch but still managed to control a decent amount of possession in the first half, though not always in threatening areas. Red Bulls, meanwhile, were looking to make it back to back wins and certainly had the lion's share of the chances in the match. **Dylan Jordan** looked sure to have opened the scoring for SAFC part way through the half when he nodded a cross on target, only for it to cannon back out off the crossbar. Next **William Adjei** though had the key to unlock United's defense, but he saw his effort cleared off the line thanks to some remarkable desperation defending. Coming out for the second half Red Bulls took their attack up another notch. However, Vancouver United defensive midfielder **Jai Dhillon** was crucial in the centre of the park, breaking up attack and defending well all game. There was also a top performance from fullback **Alex Cahus** who kept SAFC's leading scorer, **Emmanuel Ekeh** in check throughout the match. Still, Red Bulls were looking the more likely of the sides to score with attackers **Brad Heffey** and **Mikael Mainella** we dominant up front, but continued to hit either the frame of the goal or see their efforts repelled by the sharp work of **Gurnoor Bedwal** in goal for Vancouver United. As the game neared its conclusion, United nearly pulled off the ultimate smash and grab when **Jaskaran Mahil**, who was making his season debut, had a chance to win the match for the home side, but SAFC keeper **Ben Oskam** was equal to the task. **Kevan Nagra**, who was not fully fit, was forced to play out of position at centre back for SAFC in this match due to other injuries, but still put in a top performance along with new signing **Josh Howes** who played well out wide for the Red Bulls.



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Here's how the UPL Table looks after Week 9:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Abbotsford United A	8	6	0	2	29	12	17	18
Coastal FC A	7	5	1	1	25	9	16	16
Langley United A	9	5	1	3	20	11	9	16
Surrey Utd Firefighters	7	4	1	2	14	10	4	13
Port Moody SC A	7	4	0	3	11	11	0	12
SAFC Red Bulls	8	3	1	4	14	19	-5	10
CCB Azad	7	1	1	5	8	18	-10	4
Vancouver United SC	9	0	1	8	3	34	-31	1

BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Isaac Kyei from Coastal FC. Kyei has been terrorizing defenders all season and once again cam through on the scoresheet this weekend, scoring a pair of goals in Coastal's 4-0 win over Port Moody. He is an influential part of Coastal's attack and a huge reason why his team are in the hunt to regain the UPL title.

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



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE:

Fri 11/29/2019 8:45PM	Langley United vs. SAFC Red Bulls	Yorkson Turf
Sat 11/30/2019 2:00PM	Surrey United Firefighter vs. Coastal FC	Cloverdale Ath. #5
Sat 11/30/2019 4:00PM	Port Moody Gunners vs. CCB Azad	Trasolini Turf
Sat 11/30/2019 6:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. Vancouver United SC	Mouat Turf #3

League leaders Abbotsford United will be looking for a third win this season over last place Vancouver United after defeating them in the Soccer City Cup as well as in their first league meeting of the season. This time around, though, Vancouver United will have to journey to Mouat for the match and one has to think that Abbotsford a likely to be strong favourites. Port Moody Gunners are looking to bounce back after a listless performance against CCB Azad but are looking vulnerable at the minute and a young Azad side will be going to Trasolini with the hopes of perhaps catching the Gunners at less than their best.



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Elsewhere, Langley United will be out for revenge against SAFC Red Bulls following their first meeting of the season where upstart, newly promoted SAFC stunned Langley coming back from two goals down late in the match to win 4-2. Langley had their winning streak halted by Surrey last time out, but remain very much one of the form sides in the league at the moment, unbeaten in their last five and having only conceded two goals over that stretch. The standout fixture on the schedule has Surrey United hosting Coastal FC with both teams very much alive in the title race as both teams hold a game in hand over first place Abbotsford. In spite of the injury woes, Surrey earned a hard-fought point against Langley last time out, halting Langley's four match winning streak in the process. They will need a similar effort level if they want to get something out of their match against Coastal who responded to a heavy defeat against Abbotsford with a competent performance in a comprehensive win over Port Moody. This is actually the first meeting of the season between these sides after their first fixture was postponed to allow Coastal to play in, and ultimately win, the SC Cup final.

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