



Fraser Valley Soccer League



October 31, 2019

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

It was a week of changing momentum in the Umbro Premier League. Leaders Abbotsford failed to win for the first time this season as Langley came to Mouat determined to halt their own four match losing skid. Similarly, after navigating their way through the Soccer City Cup and opening league fixtures nearly untouched, high octane Coastal FC were brought to a screeching halt this week when they encountered a CCB side still looking for their first ever UPL points. There was no change, however, in the early fortunes of Surrey or Vancouver United and Port Moody registered a measure of revenge over SAFC.

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

CCB Azad 0-0 Coastal FC – Friday 8:45pm; Newton Athletic Park #4

Following their lightning hot start to the winter season, including a convincing Soccer City Cup title win, Coastal were beginning to look nigh unstoppable, especially with an attack that boasted **Jake Starheim** and **Isaac Kyei** on the wings and **Sean Northcote** through the middle. While some may have given CCB a chance against a seasoned UPL side like Coastal, few likely would have expected them to snuff out their offense entirely. Despite neither team being able to score, both sides created chances. Coastal's best chance came when they hit the crossbar and the ball dropped, creating a mad scramble in front of goal, but they were unable to force it over the line. For CCB, **Gagan Josan**, who had another outstanding game, saw a long range effort cannon off the post just before half time. As Coastal's vaunted attack continued to probe for a breakthrough, Azad defenders **Ernesto Artagea** and **Navraj Purewall** were kept busy while goalkeeper **Josh Banipal** made a clutch of outstanding saves when called upon to repel the visitors. He was not to be outdone by Coastal's man between the sticks, **Andrew Kowan** who also saw off nearly everything CCB directed towards his goal. The one time he was beaten, CCB's **Armaan Hundal** saw his effort ruled out for offside, a decision with which the home side disagreed. Coastal's **Amardeep Mander** and **Kyle Gibson** both had strong outings, along with **Brennan Naiker** from CCB, however, neither side would be able to claim all three points come the final whistle. While CCB were able to celebrate a first UPL a late red card to **Parm Aujla** took some of the shine off of the accomplishment.

SAFC Red Bulls 1-2 Port Moody Gunners – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic Park #1

When these sides met in the first competitive match for either side of the winter season, newly promoted SAFC stunned the UPL and SC Cup Champions Port Moody in this season's SC Cup. It was no surprise then to see a motivated Gunners side out to prove a point in this match and that led to a rather spicy affair. **Yimar Palcio** again proved that SAFC were not a side to be taken lightly when he scored for the Red Bulls, but cagey veteran **Graeme Meers** took advantage of the opportunity for a quick free kick to score for Port Moody. This ensured a tight contest, with Moody attackers Meers and striker **John Craig** battling SAFC defender **Brandon Nair** all evening. At the other end, the Gunners centre back **Tyler Epp** dueled with SAFC danger man **Emmanuel Ekeh** in a bid to prevent the leading scorer for the Red Bulls from deciding this match in a similar manner to the way he influenced the first meeting between these teams. Unfortunately for SAFC, an incident would see Ekeh sent off, leaving the home side to play roughly half an hour down a man and without one of their top goal threats. In the end, it would be another free kick that decided this match. With SAFC now wise to Meers and his quick free kicks, the defending Golden Boot winner was forced to delve elsewhere into his tool kit and what he was able to conjure ended up being a sublime goal, worthy of winning any match. Credit to SAFC goalkeeper **Ben**



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Oskam, who had put in a tremendous effort playing through injury in this match, but he did not have a chance on this shot. There was still time for SAFC, who have already shown the ability to comeback in games this season, and despite being down both a goal and a man they did carve out an opportunity to tie the game late, only to be denied by a fabulous save from **Miguel Hof** in the Port Moody goal.

Junghyung Lee in midfield and **Donald Kambere** at fullback for the Gunners were key in the win, while SAFC's **Dylan Jordan** and **Kevan Nagra** deserve praise for their performances in a losing effort. SAFC will hope to regroup straight away but wait to learn how long they will be without the influential Ekeh.

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

Mired in an unenviable slump and without a UPL win since Week 1 of the season, Langley trudged out to Abbotsford with a point to prove against the league leaders and their perfect record after three games. Langley proved they meant business 20 minutes in when **Connor Hildebrant** got on the end of a corner kick, only to see his effort expertly saved by **Mike Haladin** in goal for Abbotsford. Haladin was unable to hold on to the ball though and **Brett Wantke** was the first to react for Langley to bang it home and give the visitors the lead. Hildebrant then created another opportunity for himself with some great running through midfield and this time he would not be denied as he doubled the Langley lead. Having seen leads evaporate more than once already this season, Langley were resolute in the second half and went about grinding out this result. Abbotsford's **Colton O'Neil** and **Connor O'Neil** were doing their best to create from the midfield, but wingers **Ishwar Bhatti** and **Roshan Gosal** simply could not get the ball to break their way, despite some good play. Langley added a third goal through a long range effort from **Tyson Keam** before Abby managed a late consolation thanks to **David Parfett** firing home from a scramble in the Langley penalty area. Abbotsford manager Alan Alder was full of praise for his opponents, noting their "great work rate and solid team defending that shut us down in the attacking third," adding that he expects his team to be "much sharper in the attacking third in the coming weeks."

Vancouver United SC 1-5 Surrey United Firefighters – Saturday 6:15pm; Hjorth Turf #1

Another week and another Surrey derby, this time with Firefighters heading to Hjorth to take on Vancouver United. In spite of the ultimate score line, this match was hotly contested for the opening hour or so. Vancouver United had the edge in possession, but Surrey were creating all the chances. Just before the half time break, Firefighters got the breakthrough thanks to yet another great play off the wing from **Josh Miles** as he beat a host of defenders before putting one on a platter for **Ethan Clayborn-Collins** to tap in from close range. After the break the script flipped entirely with Vancouver United storming out of the block and tying the match within minutes. Some great instincts by fullback **Jai Dhillon** had him follow the play up the pitch before capping it off with a goal that left Surrey goalkeeper **Nuno Jesus** with no chance. Jesus would lock things down from then on, however, and as Vancouver United began to tire, Firefighter found another gear over the final half hour. Clayborn-Collins would be at the centre of proceedings as the man they call ECC not once, but twice, took a feed from **Dave Adams** before turning and smashing a shot into the top corner. Then youth call up **Jovan Sidhu** surged forward down the wing and cut one back for ECC who made no mistake to score his fourth goal of the match. There was time for more goals still and Miles would get to add his name to the scoresheet thanks to some great play from second half substitute **Ryan Uppal** who drew multiple defenders before getting the ball across to Miles for an easy finish. It is now no points from five matches for Vancouver United who even this early must be beginning to worry about the potential for relegation. Their first goal of the season will hopefully give them something to build on and more performances like the one **Jaryd Lee** will be needed if they are to turn these results around over the coming weeks.



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Here's how the UPL Table looks after Week 5:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Abbotsford United A	4	3	0	1	15	5	10	9
Surrey Utd Firefighters	3	3	0	0	8	1	7	9
Coastal FC A	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
Port Moody SC A	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
Langley United A	5	2	0	3	10	10	0	6
SAFC Red Bulls	4	2	0	2	9	9	0	6
CCB Azad	3	0	1	2	1	6	-5	1
Vancouver United SC	5	0	0	5	1	18	-17	0

BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Ethan Clayborn-Collins from Surrey United Firefighters. Ethan had not one, not two, not three, but four goals in a top performance that ultimately gave his team an easy victory in a game that was hotly contested until he broke it open.

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



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE:

Fri 11/01/2019 8:45PM	CCB Azad vs. Langley United	Newton Turf #4
Fri 11/01/2019 8:45PM	Surrey United Firefighter vs. SAFC Red Bulls	Cloverdale Ath. #1
Sat 11/02/2019 4:00PM	Port Moody Gunners vs. Abbotsford United	Trasolini Turf
Sat 11/02/2019 4:00PM	Coastal FC vs. Vancouver United SC	South Surrey Ath #10

This week Coastal FC will be looking for an immediate response to their stalemate with CCB and will not want to be responsible for two teams in successive weeks earning their first points of the season when they host Vancouver United. Two teams that busted slumps in CCB and Langley tangle and while both will be certain they are the favourite in this match, there can only be one winner. Meanwhile there is yet another compelling Surrey derby, this week it features Surrey United against SAFC with Surrey United being the only team in the UPL who still own a perfect record after three wins from three matches. However, the standout fixture this week has to be current leaders Abbotsford United taking



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on defending UPL Champions Port Moody Gunners. Last season Abbotsford proved to be a constant fly in the ointment for the Gunners, beating them and holding them to a draw before Port Moody ultimately clinched the title with a win away to Abbotsford in the New Year. The sides have already met this season in the SC Cup semi finals where Port Moody outclassed Abbotsford on their way to a place in the final. Since then, however, Abbotsford have been in the better form of the two teams and will be looking to bounce straight back from their first UPL loss of the season against Langley last time out!

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