



Fraser Valley Soccer League



December 6, 2018

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

Close games all around in Week 13 of the Umbro Premier League as the points almost seem to get more valuable with each passing week. The top two sides in Port Moody and Coastal both lost, taking things from tight to beyond constrictive at the top as there is no room to breathe, never mind to drop points. Just two points separate the top five and Coastal have a chance to vault from fifth to first in their make-up game against Temple this week. As we head for the home stretch, the UPL title race is wide open!

Here's a recap of all the action:

Chilliwack FC 1-2 Langley United – Friday 8pm; Tzeachten Turf #1

Coming into this match, manager Graeme Slee and his Chilliwack FC would have been hoping to build on the four points that they had earned over their two previous games. However, just as during the first round of fixtures, Langley brought an abrupt halt to their good form. On that occasion it was a 7-0 beat down; this time the 'Whack came out on the wrong end of a narrow 2-1 score line. **Dale Long** scored his fifth goal of the season for Chilliwack, pulling him level with **Mathew Point** for the team lead. The home side could have used a goal from Point, or anyone else on the night, as Long's marker was not enough to combat Langley in this one. United's **Colin Jones** banged in his seventh of the campaign to move him onto the front page of the scoring leaderboard and **Mike Perry** saw a fantastic performance rewarded with goal of his own. This result, along with the others across the UPL, moves Langley into a three-way tie for first place on 24 points. Things are less rosy for Chilliwack. The home side got a quality outing from **Derek Epp** this week, but failing to pick up any points all but assures them another season of battling relegation. Sitting 11 points back of the top five, it will take an inspired effort, and likely some luck, over the last eight games or a sensational cup run to earn a spot in the Provincial Cup this year.

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

It was likely the best performance of the season for Surrey United on Friday as they came from behind to strike a solid body blow to league leaders Port Moody. It was the home side who game flying out of the gates and had Port Moody on the back foot early doors. Neither team was holding anything back with the tackles flying in and this perhaps sparked Port Moody into life as they began to take the match over towards the end of the first half with **Chris Attadia** bossing things for the visitors. However, some sharp Surrey defending, lead by **Stephen Leslie** and goalkeeper **Nuno Jesus** ensured that this one remained scoreless going into the break. On the other side of half time though, Port Moody made their pressure tell. Within minutes of the restart **Graeme Meers** notched goal number 11 for him on the season with a classy back-heeled finish to open the scoring. It looked at this point as though the Gunners might be able to kick on and really take the game over, however, United were able to weather the storm and began to play their way back into the match. Around the hour mark they got their reward when **Dave Adams** latched onto a **Josh Gould** cross and his first time effort left Gunner's keeper **Miguel Hof** stranded as the game was knotted at 1-1. With a quarter of an hour still to play neither side was giving up their pursuit of all three points. As Surrey United assistant manager Dave Hleucka put it: "The game looked like it could have been won by either team at any moment or end as well earned draw for either side." Indeed both sides would have chances to win the game and Port Moody had to watch agonizingly as a late effort clanged off the woodwork but stayed out. Instead it would be Surrey coming away with the spoils when, during the late stages, substitute **Josh Miles** charged into the area and was



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hauled down. Reigning Brown's Social House Player of the Week, **Nick Fussell**, capped off another top performance by converting the ensuing penalty for the game winning goal. With the other results on the weekend, Hleucka knows exactly what this win means for his Surrey group calling it a "huge result for SU putting us right in the mix again and all to play for with the league still within reach."

Abbotsford United 2-0 Coastal FC – Saturday 6pm; Mouat Turf #3

After losing for the first time in five matches, Abbotsford immediately bounced back with a top showing against defending champions Coastal. The champs were without talisman and Golden Boot leader **Jake Starheim** as he awaits a discipline hearing following his sending off last weekend. The teams went toe-to-toe throughout a first period that was, as Abbotsford manager Alan Alderson put it, "bristling with energy." As usual, Coastal were attacking from the flanks and this kept Abby fullbacks **Junwon Choi** and **Mahek Gill** busy with goalkeeper **Mike Haladin** being called on at least three occasions to repel the visitors. Coastal's **Sid Vukaj** and Abby's **Tyson Hunter** were locked in a top battle in the midfield while United also tried to get their dangerous wingers **Roshan Gosal** and **Kree Byrne** involved. Despite so entertaining football, the first half ended scoreless and the match would stay that way until just past the hour mark when Gosal danced through the Coastal defense. He laid the ball off to 14-year-old **Ajaiveer Boparai** whose composed finish belied this age, making the youngster look like a proper veteran on his debut. The youth movement continued to drive the bus for Abby as next up was 15-year-old **Mohit Bhatia** causing problems for Coastal. Bhatia put his header off the underside of the crossbar and, in the scramble that ensued, Coastal were whistled for a handball. After the good work from the kids, it was the veteran, Hunter, who stepped up to salt this one away. Abby now find themselves in a three-way tie for first place and, given their youth movement you can understand why Alderson was practically walking on air post-game. "We are really excited with our present," he said, "and really excited about our future with all of the young talented guys we have been able to debut so far this season." Meanwhile, in spite of the setback, Coastal have a chance to leapfrog the field and take sole possession of first place when they play their rearranged fixture against Temple on Tuesday night.

Temple Vancouver United 2-2 Burnaby Firefighters – Saturday 6:15pm; Hjorth Road #1

For the second week running, last place Temple started on the front foot and cashed in the game's opening goal. As was the theme across the UPL this weekend, this game was scoreless at halftime, though United had created the majority of the chances in the first half. Also in keeping in line with the rest of the UPL, there would be a penalty decision in this match. **Jakr Othman** drew the penalty going one on one with the Burnaby keeper and then stepped up to the spot and converted it himself to open the scoring. Unlike last week, Temple would not be able to hunker down and defend their lead as within minutes the visitors tied the game when a cross from the left flank was turned into his own net by **Jaskaran Dhillon**. Burnaby would then take the lead with less than a quarter of an hour to go via yet another penalty; talisman **Tyler Rosenlund** did the business to make it 2-1 for the Firefighters. It looked like once more Temple were set to earn nothing for all their hard work until **Jaxon Bain** rose highest to nod home a late corner and earn United their first point since Opening Day. Manager Brad Dhillon had praise for his team after this one saying that, of their short FVSL body of work, the "Temple boys had the best game so far tonight." **Tomislav Tomic** had another strong performance for Burnaby, but picked up a booking and will have to sit out for his second yellow card accumulation suspension of the season. Meanwhile **Mudiwa Shoniwa** will hope both he and his Temple teammate can continue their strong play into a busy week ahead.



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Here's how the table looks after Week 13:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Port Moody SC A	13	7	3	3	38	17	21	24
Langley United A	13	7	3	3	34	16	18	24
Abbotsford United A	13	7	3	3	32	17	15	24
Surrey Utd Firefighters	13	7	1	5	20	20	0	22
Coastal FC A	12	6	4	2	27	14	13	22
Chilliwack FC	13	2	5	6	16	29	-13	11
Burnaby Firefighters	13	2	5	6	10	29	-19	11
Temple VAN United FC	12	0	2	10	13	48	-35	2

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Mike Haladin from Abbotsford United. Mike backstopped his Abbotsford side to an impressive 2-0 win over the always threatening Coastal FC. Mike was sharp early, making a handful of saves, allowing his team to ultimately find the goals they needed to move into a share of first place and to earn him his league leading fifth clean sheet of the season.

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



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Tue 12/04/2018 9:00PM <i>*Make-up Game</i>	Temple VAN United vs. Coastal FC	South Surrey Ath. #10
Fri 12/07/2018 8:30PM	Langley United vs. Temple VAN United	Yorkson Turf
Sat 12/08/2018 4:00PM	Coastal FC vs. Chilliwack FC	South Surrey Ath. #10
Sat 12/08/2018 4:00PM	Port Moody Gunners vs. Abbotsford United	Trasolini Turf
Sat 12/08/2018 6:30PM	Burnaby Freighters vs. Surrey United	Burnaby Lake West #5

One to watch this week is Port Moody Gunners against Abbotsford United. In their first meeting of the campaign Abbotsford stunned the then outright league leaders by handing them their first loss of the season. That is just one of what has been a number of impressive results so far for an Abbotsford team that was thought to be in a rebuild cycle coming into this year. Fast forward a month and a half and now the UPL's surprise package team find themselves tied with the Gunners, as well as Langley, atop the UPL table. It all makes for fantastic build up to a top of the table clash. Certainly, Port Moody will not be in a welcoming mood after the aforementioned earlier result between these two teams. The



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Gunners will be out for some pay back, but are also looking for a bounce back as they have now lost two games in a row. It should make for top viewing out at Trasolini on Saturday!

It will also be worth keeping an eye on how Coastal perform this week. Coming off their loss against Abbotsford, they play two of the bottom three within five days. First up is a rearranged game against last place Temple on Tuesday night followed by welcoming Chilliwack to SSAP on Saturday. If they can take all six points they will be alone in first place and in pole position to retain their title heading into the final round of fixtures.

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