



Fraser Valley Soccer League



November 28, 2018

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

The beat marched on in the Umbro Premier League this week with Langley and Surrey earning important wins in returns to form. There were not in bad form per se, but with the table so tight even one or two weeks of poor results can be catastrophic. There were also losses for another pair of teams in Port Moody and Abbotsford who are not accustomed to being on the wrong side of a score line!

Here's a recap of all the action:

Langley United 2-0 Abbotsford United – Friday 8:30pm; Yorkson Turf

Frustration for Abbotsford on Friday as they had a chance to leave Langley six points back of them in the table but, instead, they now sit level on 21 points apiece. Langley started this one full of running and were rewarded with an early **Connor Hildebrandt** goal as he found space between the Abby defenders to get on the end of a cross. The home side looked clearly motivated to put an end to a three game winless skid that had seen them pick up just two points and, as a result, slide down the standings. Abbotsford would steady the ship however and **Brady Weir** had a chance to level things when he found himself in on a breakaway, but put his finish the wrong side of the post. That miss was to be a sign of things to come for Abby in this one. In the second half the visitors ratcheted up their attacking in search of the equalizer but could not find the target. A frustrating day for manager Alan Alderson who was able to see a bit of humor in his side's futility in front of goal noting "the best we could do was to earn a lot of corner kicks and tire out their keeper as he had to take what was probably a premier league record number of goal kicks in a half." Langley keeper **Andrew Hicks** would take all those goal kicks en route to recording his second clean sheet of the season. **Colin Jones** would add a late insurance marker for Langley and **Mike Perry** played well in the win. A bright spot for Abbotsford was the performance of **Tammer Byrne** who played well at centre back and in central midfield alongside the ever-steady **Tyson Hunter**. In the end a big result for Langley, while Abby are left to rue a handful of missed chances and a poor first half where Alderson was "disappointed that we didn't match their grittiness."

Surrey United Firefighters 3-1 Temple Vancouver United – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic Park #2

It was quite the comeback for Surrey United on Friday night as their local rivals Temple pushed them right to the edge. The FVSL and UPL newcomers took the lead a quarter of the way through the match when **Harpaul Bolina** served up a tantalizing cross for **Amar Takhar** to nod home at the far post. This gave Temple the lead and, given that they are currently toiling in last place without a win all season and embroiled in a ten match losing run, they proceeded to fight to defend that lead to the best of their abilities. Surrey cranked up the offensive pressure, but Temple remained resilient thanks to some top quality defending and a pair of spectacular saves from goalkeeper **Jaskarn Dhillon**. When Firefighters leading goal scorer, **Ethan Clayborne-Collins**, rang his penalty attempt off the crossbar ten minutes before half time, it really did seem to be going all Temple's way. Undaunted however, Surrey continued their assault on Temple's goal into the second half. **Nick Fussell** and **David Adams** were pulling the strings in the middle of the park for United and creating chance after chance for themselves and others, but Temple remained resolute in their defending. According to Temple manager Brad Dhillon it was "attack from all sides but Temple's defense stood like a wall." Surrey's frustration was beginning to



Fraser Valley Soccer League



build as the clock edged closer to time and their ornery mood was only made worse by what they perceived to be constant time-wasting tactics employed by Temple. Eventually the clock proved to be just ten short minutes too long. Surrey's **Evan Chow** was the first to pounce on a loose ball that was not cleared after a Firefighter's corner kick to finally level the score for the home sides. Within minutes of the restart, **Ryan Donald** poked home a rebound and completely turned the game on its head. **Josh Miles** would see a deflected effort find the back of the net in the final minute to ensure all three points would be heading to a much relieved Surrey camp. Assistant manager Dave Hleucka, obviously thrilled with the last gasp rescue, was quick to give Temple their due. "Their defenders and specifically missed chances had our number most of the night," he said, "Possession was great but the finish or the final pass was off all night. Lucky to have pulled it out." Dropping points on this night could have proved disastrous for the Firefighters as they would have fallen off the pace of the other teams at the top. Instead, they stay within touching distance of a jam-packed UPL leaderboard.

Coastal FC 3-1 Port Moody Gunners – Saturday 4pm; South Surrey Athletic Park #10

After smothering Coastal's star performers in their first meeting, league leaders Port Moody were unable to reign in the defending champions in the rematch. Golden Boot leader **Jake Starheim** had a brace moving him onto an impressive 13 goals for the season and leaving him three tallies ahead of his nearest challenger, Port Moody's **Graeme Meers**. While he was unable to get on the scoresheet himself this week, Meers still put in a top-class performance for the Gunners. You could tell early that this game was a top of the table clash as the intensity palpable straight from kick off. The tackles were flying in and this made for a tight game for the officials. It also showed in the discipline report as the game finished 11 against 10 when Starheim was sent off for violent conduct and there were a further four cautions. **Isaac Kyei** added his long awaited first goal of the season to round out Coastal's scoring on the night while **Vaughn Andrews** had the lone reply for Port Moody. Youth call up **Kyle Vokeroth** also had a top game for Coastal in the home side's victory. The win puts Coastal just two points back of the first place Gunners, meaning that they should be in a position to take over top spot when they play their make up game against last place Temple.

Burnaby Firefighters 1-1 Chilliwack FC – Saturday 6:30pm; Burnaby Lake West #5

Two teams in the bottom half of the table clashed in Burnaby Saturday night. Both sides would have been desperate to record all three points in an effort to move clear of any potential relegation playoff and try to keep within touching distance of the top five teams. Instead, however, neither team was able to find the crucial goal and the sides were forced to settle for a share of the spoils which likely would have left both camps less than satisfied. It was a well-matched game with both sides trading chances and taking turns having spells controlling proceedings. Chilliwack would find the opening goal through **Dale Long** who found an opening a nosed the visitors in front just before the half hour mark. The score line would stay that way until the second half when **Tomislav Tomic** struck for Burnaby to level the match once more. Possession continued to be shared rather equally the rest of the way and both sides had looks to win the game. Ultimately, though, a draw seemed like the correct outcome on the day. No surprises that each side was pushed on by their key men in this one; former Toronto FC man **Tyler Rosenlund** was his usual outstanding self for Firefighters while **Tyler Epp** continued to put in his seemingly weekly first-class effort for Chilliwack.



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Here's how the table looks after Week 12:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Port Moody SC A	12	7	3	2	37	15	22	24
Coastal FC A	11	6	4	1	27	12	15	22
Langley United A	12	6	3	3	32	15	17	21
Abbotsford United A	12	6	3	3	30	17	13	21
Surrey Utd Firefighters	12	6	1	5	18	19	-1	19
Chilliwack FC	12	2	5	5	15	27	-12	11
Burnaby Firefighters	12	2	4	6	8	27	-19	10
Temple VAN United FC	11	0	1	10	11	46	-35	1

BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK



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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the week is Nick Fussell from Surrey United. Nick pulled the strings from the engine room for United this week, creating a multitude of chance for himself and others. His never say die attitude helped keep the pressure on against Temple and he was a key reason why he and his teammates were able to pull off a stunning late comeback and claim all three points.

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



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Fri 11/30/2018 8:00PM

Chilliwack FC vs. Langley United

Tzeachten Turf #1

Fri 11/30/2018 8:45PM

Surrey United vs. Port Moody Gunners

Cloverdale Ath. #2

Sat 12/01/2018 6:00PM

Abbotsford United vs. Coastal FC

Mouat Turf #3

Sat 12/01/2018 6:15PM

Temple VAN United vs. Burnaby Freighters

Hjorth Road #1

One to watch this week is Abbotsford against Coastal. Abby have been the surprise package of the UPL season and were sitting in second place coming into last weekend. All of a sudden they have fallen to fourth and now square off last seasons champions, Coastal, who are seemingly on a march back toward first place themselves. If it all goes wrong United could find themselves in fifth after this weekend as the UPL heads towards the home stretch, which leaves little margin for error when it comes to qualification for the Provincial Cup. Abbotsford found that out the hard way last season when they did indeed finish



Fraser Valley Soccer League



fifth and were bumped out of the post season dance by Aldergrove winning the Pakenham Cup. They should not expect to find Coastal in any sort of generous mood though, having just knocked off league leaders Port Moody and put top spot within their reach.

Another one to keep an eye on in an important battle at the bottom between Temple and Burnaby. Temple have been playing better in recent weeks, but still have no results to show for it. They will need to get some points on the board in a hurry if they are to claw their way back up the table and try and secure guaranteed safety as they are running out of racetrack. A loss to second bottom Firefighters would make that task even more difficult.

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