



Fraser Valley Soccer League



December 19, 2018

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

The final weekend of 2018 went off without a hitch in the UPL and saw all three top team win to go into the winter break separated by just three points. It was status quo as well, therefore, at the bottom of the table as Chilliwack, Burnaby and Temple will all continue to look to solidify their top-flight status come the New Year. The only change ahead of the holidays was in the middle of the table where Surrey and Abbotsford switched places, though both teams are still in with a chance at the title come 2019.

Here's a recap of all the action:

Port Moody Gunners 5-0 Chilliwack FC – Thursday 8:30pm; Trasolini Turf

Moving this match to Thursday meant that both these sides could get an early jump on the holiday break. Having said that, given their performance it appears that Chilliwack may have called it quits for 2018 even before this one kicked off. Other than another quality performance for **Tyler Epp**, there was not much for Chilliwack to take away from their trip to the Tri-Cities. **Miguel Hof** was in fine form for Port Moody when necessary on the night to earn his third clean sheet of the season, one more than his goalkeeping partner for the Gunners, **Richard Meister**. Offensively, it was another banner night for **Graeme Meers** who has been a top performer for Port Moody all season. On this evening he was rewarded for his efforts with a brace while **Cole Almond** and **Monywiir Deng Daharjang** also popped up with goals for the home side. A Chilliwack player did also get on the scoresheet, but unfortunately for the visitors it came at the wrong end of the park as **Glory Shumbusho** put through his own goal to round out the scoring. Port Moody go into the winter break in third place after having lead the way in the UPL for much of the early part of the season. Still, the Gunners are only three points off of top spot with everything to play for down the stretch. Chilliwack, meanwhile, cannot rest easy just yet as they are not safe from relegation, nor the threat of a playoff to stay up, just yet.

Langley United 4-1 Burnaby Firefighters – Friday 8:30pm; Yorkson Turf

Similar to Chilliwack, Burnaby find themselves still with work to do to ensure that they have another season of UPL football ahead of them. **Trevor Hallam** did his best to drag the Firefighters towards points out in Langley and **Eric Rasmussen** chipped in with a goal, but, ultimately, United proved too much for Burnaby. In particular **Connor Hildebrant** was rampant for the home side claiming the match ball for netting a hat trick as Langley made it a perfect three-for-three against Burnaby on the season. **Joshua Brown** had the other marker for United who once again sit in second place, where they finished last season, just behind leaders Coastal FC. With six matches left to play this season, including a big head to head against Coastal as soon as play resumes in January, Langley will be confident of their ability to write a different ending to the script this time around. That match could very well decide the league, though surely the other sides in the top five all believe that they are still in with a chance.



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Coastal FC 6-0 Temple Vancouver United – Saturday 4pm; South Surrey Athletic Park #10

It was a case of the third time being the charm for Coastal FC against a Temple side that had proven to be a stubborn nut to crack for them all season. On Opening Day UPL new boys Temple stunned the defending champions by coming from 2-0 down late to steal a point. Despite being at opposite ends of the table, when the sides met again in a rearranged fixture just a week and a half ago it took a late winner five minutes from time for Coastal to ensure that they came away with all three points. This time out there was no such trouble for the home side as they coasted to 6-0 win. **Sean Kamansek** scored his first goal of the season while **Sean Northcote** continued to have the hot hand, adding a brace to go with his hattrick from last week. **Tyler Richardson** also followed up his hattrick from last time out with a goal while **Cam Parkes** and **Sid Vukaj** ensured that Coastal were able to exorcise their Temple demons. The win means that Coastal go into the holidays atop the UPL table, a fate that was not always a certainty given a slow start to their season. They now enter the final stretch of games in pole position to retain their crown. Temple on the other hand are running out of runway in a hurry. Although, they have improved their performances over recent weeks, they still have only two points for their efforts and will likely need to win four of their last six games to have any chance of avoiding a last place finish.

Abbotsford United 2-3 Surrey United Firefighters – Saturday 6pm; Mouat Turf #3

The final game of the UPL schedule for 2018 served up an entertaining affair between the two teams smack in the middle of the table. In the end, Surrey would vault Abbotsford into fourth place as Firefighters continue to enjoy their matches against Abby this season. The visitors posted two wins and a draw in the three meeting between the sides, making them the only team that Abbotsford have failed to beat at least once this season. Both teams seemed to be ready for the holidays throughout a rather placid first half. Despite Abbotsford having developed a reputation for getting contributions from youth players so far this season, it would be Surrey's youth call ups who made the difference on this occasion. Youngster **Nico Pietramala** would capitalize on a rare chance to open the scoring for the Firefighters while Abbotsford would be forced to settle for putting one off the woodwork to go into half time trailing. The second half was a much brighter display of footballing all around, however, and Abby would be sparked by a late arriving **Roshan Gosal**. Gosal latched onto a nice through ball from **Reece Branion** to level the scores at one each. It would not stay that way for long however, as a defensive error paved the way for yet another Surrey youth player, **Evan Potter**, to pot his first senior goal and restore his side's lead. Abbotsford would respond through Gosal again, though this time he was the provider, with accounts from those in attendance saying that he returned the favor by setting up Branion to make it 2-2; although the official record states that it was **Atle Koellmel** who had the telling touch. Regardless of who put it in, Abby were level and pushing for a winner, only to be turned away time and again by Surrey keeper **Nuno Jesus**. Ultimately, this match would be decided by a late penalty awarded to Surrey and converted by veteran **Nick Fussell**. While disappointed with the result, Abbotsford manager Alan Alderson was quick to give his opponents credit for making his side "pay for our lack of mental intensity and for forcing us into the defensive errors that gave them their goals." He was able to take some positives from the loss, adding "I was pleased that we were still able to create as many chances as we did on a night where we were so far from our best." Despite the loss dropping Abby to fifth Alderson remains bullish about his side saying that he was "looking forward to the run in at the beginning of the new year with our group!"



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Here's how the table looks after Week 15:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Coastal FC A	15	9	4	2	41	15	26	31
Langley United A	15	9	3	3	41	18	23	30
Port Moody SC A	15	8	4	3	44	18	26	28
Surrey Utd Firefighters	15	8	2	5	23	22	1	26
Abbotsford United A	15	7	4	4	35	21	14	25
Burnaby Firefighters	15	2	6	7	11	33	-22	12
Chilliwack FC	15	2	5	8	17	41	-24	11
Temple VAN United FC	15	0	2	13	14	58	-44	2

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is Connor Hildebrant from Langley United. Connor becomes our first multi-time POTW winner after his hat trick lead Langley to a 4-1 win over Burnaby Firefighters. The win ensures that United go into the holiday break just a single point out of first place in the UPL, while Connor takes over top spot in the Golden Boot race with 15 goals on the season.

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



THE UPL SCHEDULE WHEN WE RETURN IN JANUARY

January 18/19/20, 2019	Chilliwack FC vs. Surrey United	Tzeachten Turf #1
January 18/19/20, 2019	Coastal FC vs. Langley United	South Surrey Ath. #10
January 18/19/20, 2019	Port Moody Gunners vs. Burnaby Firefighters	Trasolini Turf
January 18/19/20, 2019	Abbotsford United vs. Temple VAN United	Mouat Turf #3

We hope you have enjoyed all the twists and turns throughout the Umbro Premier League season to date! We will be back in the New Year bringing you all the action down the stretch as we find out who will be crowned this year's UPL Champion as well as the race for Provincial Cup places, the battle at the bottom of the table and, of course, the Pakenham and Soccer City Cup competitions.

Speaking of those cup competitions, the draws can be found here:

- Pakenham Cup - http://www.fraservalleysoccer.com/pdfs/Pakenham_Cup_2019.pdf
- Soccer City Cup - http://www.fraservalleysoccer.com/pdfs/SC_Cup_2019.pdf



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While the Soccer City Cup looks like a fairly straight forward chance for one of the UPL's top five to add some extra silverware to the trophy cabinet this season, a close look at the Pakenham Cup draw reveals a very intriguing proposition for the bottom sides. Chilliwack, Burnaby and Temple have all ended up in the same half of the draw with Division 1 sides PoCo Royals, North Delta SC, Coastal FC B and Langley FC. The only other UPL side in that half is Langley United who must play a preliminary game against TWU Spartans B, the second place side in Division 1, with the winner of that game playing North Delta, the first place side in Division 1. All this means is that if anybody can knockout Langley, then whoever makes the final from this half of the draw will be playing for an unlikely Provincial Cup spot come Cup Final Day, which is set for April 7 at Cloverdale Athletic Park. This should also place some extra emphasis on the battle to finish in the top four of the UPL, rather than the top five. Lots to look forward to then in 2019!

Don't forget as well that 2019 kicks off with the All-Star games between the FVSL and the VISL Saturday January 12, with rosters to be announced within the next week. We hope to see everyone there and cheering on the FVSL as they look to get the best of their Island counterparts in this friendly rivalry. Until then, from all of us here at the FVSL Media Department, have a great and festive holiday season and all the best for 2019!

Send NEWS to media@fraservalleysoccer.com

And for more information on the FVSL go to fraservalleysoccer.com



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