



Fraser Valley Soccer League



October 3, 2019

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

Just like that the 2019/20 Soccer City Premier League Cup Final has been set. Both semi finals were held this past weekend as the final four teams all staked their claim for a chance to play for the trophy. In the end we have got a rematch of last season's final, won by current champions Port Moody Gunners. The final match is scheduled for 4pm on Thanksgiving Monday, October 14 at Cloverdale Athletic Park #1. In the meantime, it is finally time to resume full on action in the Umbro Premier League and, in fact, a pair of teams already got started in that competition this past weekend.

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

Soccer City Premier League Cup – SEMI FINALS

Coastal FC 6-1 SAFC Red Bulls – Saturday 4pm; South Surrey Athletic Park #10

It was a case of the "same old song and dance" for Coastal in their semi final against newly promoted SAFC Red Bulls. An early goal from **Ayman Hamza** gave Red Bulls the lead and when Coastal missed the chance to level the match on a penalty, one could forgive SAFC if they thought the stars might just be aligning in this one. Unfortunately for them, that was not the case as Coastal had the match level before half time and then went on to dominate the second half. **Isaac Kyei** remained hot netting a pair of goals and **Jake Starheim** continued to add to his total in this competition with another tally to move him onto seven goals from four games. The goals continued to pour of with **Sean Northcote** and **Sean Kamensek** getting in on the action and it was a strong performance for **Taj Sangara** as well who rounding his night out with a goal to add to a pair of assists. This trend of making adjustments at half time and storming over the opposition in the second period is becoming a habit for Coastal and they will hope their free scoring ways carry into the SC Cup final, as well as into the UPL which begins next weekend. For SAFC, their first exposure to consistent top-level competition comes to a rather inauspicious end after a strong start that saw them upset SC Cup and UPL Champions Port Moody on Match Day 1. Despite the loss, **Benjamin Oskam** had another good outing. He and his teammates will now look forward to competing in the UPL after having earned their place at this level with their success at the Division 1 level last year.

Port Moody Gunners 3-1 Abbotsford United – Saturday 4pm; Trasolini Turf

After looking like they were going to be touch and go just to make the semi-finals in defense of the SC Cup title, Port Moody, ultimately, made short work of an Abbotsford side that would have been hoping for a better performance and a better result. Abbotsford have been looking like a team on the up since last season and have consistently been able to punch above their perceived weight class with relative ease, but they struggled to get out of first gear on this evening. This led to a fairly straightforward first half for Port Moody as the home side helped themselves to a pair of goals by **Cole Almond** and **Dale Long** to be up 2-0 at the break. As a testament to their character, however, Abbotsford demonstrated strong resolve in the second half and were much more competitive. They were unable to prevent **Josh Craig** from making it 3-0 for the Gunners, but they did get rewarded with a late consolation marker. **Connor Robillard**, who had been far and away Abby's brightest spark on this night was rewarded with a goal a few minutes before full time. "We really struggled to connect passes today, especially in the first half, and were poor with our individual decision making which lead to giving up the ball far too easily," observed Abbotsford Manager Alan Alderson, adding that "Port Moody are too good a team to let us off the hook with our lack of sharpness." Still, the match was a good opportunity for young players like **Benjamin Shumbusho** and **David Parfett** to gain some experience in big games as they got the chance to come on in the second half. United were also buoyed by the return of **Ishwar Bhatti** after injury as he



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was able to get some game minutes under his belt ahead of the UPL season beginning. For Port Moody, they will indeed get a chance to defend their SC Cup title and they will hope that **Tyler Leonard** and brother **Nick Leonard** will be able to replicate their performances from this match in the final as the pair were outstanding all evening.

Umbro Premier League

Vancouver United 0-3 Langley United – Saturday 6:15pm; Hjorth Turf #1

While the majority of the league are still yet to get their league campaign underway, Vancouver United and Langley United officially raised the curtain on the 2019/20 Umbro Premier League season Saturday evening in Surrey. The match marked the return to the Langley lineup of **Connor Hildebrant** after some time pursuing professional opportunities abroad. He was an instant boost to their Langley ranks with his energy creating several chances and resulting in him scoring a goal of his own as well. **Body Thomas**, who had been doing much of the heavy lifting for Langley in the SC Cup competition to begin the year continued his strong form and notched a brace in this match. New goalkeeper **Hudson Nelles** registered a clean sheet in his UPL debut for the visitors who took their opportunity to put some early points on the board in the UPL table. For Vancouver United, they will be disappointed with the way their season has begun. After a less than satisfactory SC Cup performance, the Surrey side would have been hoping to turn over to a blank page and start the UPL season fresh. Unfortunately for them, they were found wanting at the first time of asking this season. There is, of course, a long way to go, and Vancouver United will be hoping that if more players can put in regular efforts on the level of what **Yimar Palacio** produced in this match, then they should be able to turn these results around.

A first look at the UPL Table for 2019/20:

Umbro Premier (Fall) - Pool: A								
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Langley United A	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
CCB Azad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAFC Red Bulls	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abbotsford United A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal FC A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Moody SC A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey Utd Firefighters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver United SC	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0



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The Fraser Valley Soccer League is once again proud to partner with Brown's Social House to recognize a worthy performance in the Umbro Premier League each week. The winning player will again receive a \$25 gift card, courtesy of Brown's Social House in acknowledgment of their great individual effort that weekend.

The Brown's Social House Player of the Week will return, beginning next week!



THIS WEEK'S UPL SCHEDULE

Fri 10/4/2019 8:45PM	SAFC Red Bulls vs. Vancouver United SC	Cloverdale Ath. #1
Fri 10/4/2019 9:00PM	Langley United vs. Surrey United Firefighters	Yorkson Turf
Sat 10/5/2019 4:00PM	Port Moody Gunners vs. Coastal FC	Trasolini Turf
Sat 10/5/2019 6:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. CCB Azad	Mouat Turf #3

With the Soccer City Cup Final now set, focus can now shift to the much anticipate full debut of the Umbro Premier League. New teams CCB Azad and SAFC Red Bulls will get their first taste of UPL action when they do battle against Abbotsford and Vancouver United respectively, while old foes Langley and Surrey United will lock horns once more. However, right from the off a fixture with potentially massive title consequences is upon us, and it also happens to be a preview of the upcoming SC Cup final as well! Last season's runners up, and former champions, Coastal FC travel to Trasolini Turf to take on reigning UPL Champions, Port Moody Gunners. The Gunners will hope that the defense of their UPL crown gets off on better footing than the defense of their SC Cup title, after they lost their opening match in that competition 2-1 to SAFC Red Bulls. Ultimately Port Moody were able to recover and reach this season's SC Cup final, however, there will surely be no easing into the UPL season given the form Coastal are in at present. In blazing their own trail to the SC Cup final this year, Coastal, and in particular Isaac Kyei and talisman Jake Starheim, left their opponents in their wake. Coastal scored a combined 22 goals on their way to a berth in the final, while allowing only six goals against and routinely proving that they were capable of coming back from conceding an early goal against. Last season the home side won all three meetings between the teams and Port Moody prevailed in their fourth meeting in the SC Cup final as well. This match is the perfect marquee fixture to begin a season and hopefully it will be a cracker!

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