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

January 20, 2022

It took longer than anticipated to get back to action across the FVSL following the holidays, including in the Premier Division. The snow did finally thaw, though, and action resumed in what is set to be somewhat of a chaotic dash to the finish line. There are plenty of matches to fit in between now and the end of the season. Six of them were played this week and there were some key results up and down the table. Want to know what they were? Time to check out the <u>FVSL Premier Review!</u>

It seemed the teams in **Division 1** were more than ready to emerge from their winter hibernation as they came flying out of the blocks to begin 2022. A total of 36 goals were scored across the division, with four being the low water mark for goals in a game. Leaders **Tzeachten FC** were involved in one of those "low scoring", four goal affairs, beating **North Delta SC NEWWAY** 3-1 with **Dale Long** bagging a brace. The other four goal game was a 4-0 success for **TSS Rovers II U21** against **Abbotsford United C** in which **Tyson Gugushe** earned a second clean sheet of the season. That result keeps TSS right in the thick of the hunt for second place, as the Rovers sit one point behind **TWU Spartans B** after TWU edged fourth place **Port Moody Piranhas** 4-3 in a fantastic contest. **Jack Livesey** scored twice for Port Moody, but it was not enough to overcome a TWU side led by goal scoring machine **Charles Freddy Tchouya Nana**, as he too had a pair of goals in this one. **Dongyeon Kim** led the way **FC Tigers Vancouver B**, scoring a hattrick in there 7-2 win over **Premier Academy U21**. Veteran player-coach **Azad Palani** continued to enter his name on the scoresheet across the FVSL, this time scoring a hattrick for **Langley United B** in 6-1 toppling of **Juba FC**. The other match of the weekend saw **Surrey United SC Reds U21** edge clubmates **Surrey United SC B** 3-2 thanks to a brace from **Jaden Versluis**.

The free scoring vibe carried right on into **Division 2** as it was clear that players were excited to be back on the pitch. All three teams in the 2A title race resumed action by posting victories. Defending champions **Abbotsford United B** got goals from three different scorers in a 3-1 win over **Surrey United SC Elite**. The win leaves them a point back of both **Mission SC A** and **Ridge Meadows SC United** but holding a game in hand. For their part, Mission rode a **Colton Huberts** clean sheet to a 2-0 win over **Langley United U21** while Ridge Meadows were handed a forfeit by **FC Faly U21**. Elsewhere in 2A, **Scott Lively** had a hattrick outing for **Aldergrove United Highlanders** in a 5-0 win over **Langley City FC**. Hattricks were definitely the there over in 2B, with leaders **North Surrey Mustangs A** romping to an 8-0 win over **WRU Vault FC** that featured an **Abdullah Jalal** triple. Hot on their heels at the top, **Surrey FC Punjab** saw **Adarshdeep Singh** make the difference with his three goals in a 4-1 defeat of **FC Tigers Vancouver C**, keeping them within touching distance at the top. Elsewhere, Langley rivals **Langley United Dynamo** and **Langley United Dragons** combined for a dozen goal, with Dynamo winning 9-3 and **Ryan Miller** notching the hattrick.

There was clearly some rust to shake off for the teams at the top of **Division 3A** first place **Langley United Impact** suffered a 3-1 loss at the hands of **Ridge Meadows SC Rowdies**, which prevented them from taking advantage of slips ups from their fellow title contenders as the season reaches a climax. **Mission SC U21** were held to a 1-1 by **Ridge Meadows SC Strikers** with Mission's **Nathan Leathley** having his goal offset by **Thomas Gaita** from Strikers. There was a further 1-1 between **Ridge Meadows**

SC Misfits and Abbotsford SA Graduates U21, much to the chagrin of both teams. FVSL league wide leading goal scorer Ishminder Dhaliwal scored for Graduates, but it was not enough with Aiden Bushell on target for Misfits. All of this allowed PoCo FC Rockets to climb up the standings and keep their waning title hopes alive thanks two a 2-1 win over Ridge Meadows SC Wolves U21 on goals by Sean Byrne and Farhang Behrouzi. There was no such trouble at the top of Division 3B, though as Cameron Dhaliwal put forward a hattrick performance to keep leaders Ladner FC purring atop the table after a 4-2 win against North Surrey Mustangs B. However, a win by Whalley Wakanda, who defeated Surrey FC Royals 3-0, means the title race will persist at least another few weeks.

The compelling title races in both group of **Division 4** headed into the final stretch as play resumed. In 4A, a pair of 4-0 wins for **Mission SC B** and **PoCo FC Pacific** over **Aldergrove United** and **PoCo FC Athletic** kept them with in with a chance of catching **Tri City FC B**, who had a further week off with the fields not thawing in time for their match away to **Xwelmexw FC B**. A brace by **Costin Ionascu** help Pacific to their win, while saw keeper **Jesse Frick** chalk up a division leading eighth clean sheet of the year. Big wins for **North Delta SC 91's** and **North Delta SC United SJ** allowed them to take advantage of their game in hand over **Grass & Hops FC** and overtake them atop the table. **Ryan Lal** scored twice for the 91s, as they beat **North Delta SC Falcons** 6-1, and SJ were handed a forfeit by **WRU Cloverdale FC B**. It was the same story for **Aldergrove United Lowlanders**, as they too benefitted from a forfeit by **Surrey FC Temple**, while **Surrey FC United** got a hattrick from **Vishav Jaswal** to beat **Langley United Studs** 6-1, with those points keeping the slim title hopes for both Lowlanders and United alive.

There was a massive result in Masters 1 to begin the New Year, a Langley United Knights defeated North Delta SC Rangers 3-1 to more or less put one hand on the title. Colin Dewit and Ben Hadson were on target for Langley with Steven Vaissade also adding his first goal of the season, while Jairo Rodriguez managed the lone reply for North Delta. Elsewhere, Surrey United SC knocked off Aldergrove United Players 7-1 and Chilliwack Rapids were 5-0 winners over WRU South Surrey FC to keep the battle for third place tight. Meanwhile, the Masters 2 title may already have been won prior to the holidays, but that did not mean their could not still be a top performance. Keenan Nddjiva knocked in a hattrick for second place Whalley City, and his side need all those goals as well in order to come out on the right end of an enthralling 5-4 win over Xwelmexw FC C. There is still a bit of a way to go in Masters 3, but leaders Coastal FC Alumni picked up another three points thanks to a forfeit from Ridge Meadows SC Chargers, however, second place Ridge Meadows SC Thunder kept pace thanks to a Ken Laity goal that secured a 1-0 win over WRU South Surrey FC Bullets.

MATCH OF THE WEEK

The title race in Division 1 has been seemingly settled for some time with leaders Tzeachten FC working on a perfect season. However, the battle for second place, and a possible chance at promotion, is very much alive, and that is where we find ourselves this week. Third place TSS FC Rovers II U21 are a point back of second place TWU Spartans B, but they hold a game in hand. This week, they face a stiff test against another top four side in fourth place Port Moody Piranhas, who could also climb the table and finish in second before all is said and done. TSS are a young, exciting group who have been growing and becoming accustomed to the rigors of life in the FVSL since joining the league. This season, they have established themselves as a top Division 1 side, thanks in large part to the play of Jack Cluff whose

fourteen goals have him second in the Golden Boot race. He is far from alone in the scoring department, though, as TSS get contributions from all over the field, notably Evan Lycos and Silas Boyden have stepped up this season with seven and five goals respectively. Also a regular contributor, and a driving force behind the Rovers this year, is Liam MacGowan, whose contributions go well beyond simply the six goals he has scored. At the back, Tyson Gugushe has likely let in a few more goals this season than he would have hoped, but he has certainly come through with big saves at opportune moments.

On the other side of the ball, the Piranhas have much in common with TSS in that they too largely grew into the league over a number of seasons. The Port Moody boys are becoming FVSL veterans and leader Jack Livesey has an opportunity to be the division's MVP this season, given his numerous stellar performances. The goalkeeping of Terry Jackson has long been the bedrock upon which PoMo's success has been built, and he is again among the division leaders, having chalked up four clean sheets. However, the Piranhas are also getting great offensive contributions this season from the likes of Livesey, who has nine goals, but also from Jeff Lee, who has chipped in with five. A strong finish to the season could have Port Moody considering whether or not they feel that perhaps a step up to the next level might be something for which they want to consider striving.

TSS Rovers II U21 v Port Moody Piranhas goes Saturday night at 7pm at King George Park.

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