January 27, 2022

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

Just when you might have thought we were through with the wacky, winter weather, the fog rolled in! It was enough to scuttle one Premier Division match this week, but a number of others did go ahead and there were plenty of great matches and performances. The table is beginning to take shape as the top flight enters the final third of the season. Be sure to visit the FVSL Premier Review to stay right up to date with all the latest results and happenings.

The perfect record stayed intact this week for **Division 1** leaders **Tzeachten FC** without them having to take the field as **Abbotsford United C** were not able to field a team and were forced to forfeit. Further, our Match of the Week between **TSS FC Rovers II U21** and **Port Moody Piranhas** was brought to an abrupt halt just before half time when it had to be abandoned. **Jack Cluff** and **Liam MacGowan** had already scored to give TSS a 2-0 lead by this point and **Terry Jackson** and **Matt Strukoff** were sent off for Port Moody. In games that actually did get played to completion, second place **TWU Spartans B** found themselves in a goal-fest against **Surrey United SC Red U21**. TWU would come out on the right end of it, winning 4-3 thanks to a brace by **Alexander Roxburgh**. There was also a big result at the bottom of the table with **Premier Academy U21** getting two goals from **Josh White** to post a 2-1 victory over **Juba FC**. Rivals **Surrey United SC B** and **Langley United B** played out an entertaining 3-1 game, with Surrey claiming the points on this occasion, and **North Delta SC NEWWAY** rode a second clean sheet of the year from **Mathew Pereira** to a 2-0 wing against **FC Tigers Vancouver B**.

There are only a few matches remaining in the **Division 2** schedule and it looks like things will go right to the wire in both groups! The battle at the top in 2A see-sawed once again as co-leaders **Mission SC A** and **Ridge Meadows SC United** both failed to pick up maximum points. Mission were held to a 1-1 draw when a first goal of the season by **Brandon Bergh** was not enough for all three points against **Poco FC Titans**, who got a goal from **Kellan Alexander**. Things were even worse for Ridge Meadows, as they were beaten 3-1 by **Aldergrove United Highlanders** after they got goals from three different players. All this opened the door for defending champions Abbotsford United B to reclaim top spot while holding a game in hand. **Taranjit Bagri** and **Manveer Dhillon** supplied the offense for Abby as they edged **Langley City FC** 2-1 to move back into first place. Over in 2B it is most definitely all to play for after favourites **Coastal FC** and **North Surrey Mustangs A** both failed to win. A second clean sheet of the year for **Govind Sharma** provided **Surrey FC Punjab** a 3-0 win over Coastal and now has them in pole position for the title, level on points with North Surrey, but holding a game in hand. North Surrey were forced to settle for a 3-3 draw with **Langley United Dynamo** after **Cam Whitters** scored a brace to keep Dynamo in with a distant shot at the title themselves. Also still in the mix are **Surrey United SC C** after surviving a barnburner against **WRU Vault FC**, winning 5-4 on the back braces by **Ross Carroll** and **Tyler Walters**.

In **Division 3A** leaders **Langley United Impact** moved within one win of claiming the title after the results this past weekend. The Impact bounced back from a loss last time out to post a 6-0 win over **Ridge Meadows SC Misfits**, one of the teams that was competing with them for the title. **Paul Atwell** led the way with a brace and **Carter Turner** posted the shutout. Impact were able to move to the brink of the championship thanks to **Tri City FC A** beating **Abbotsford SA Graduates U21** 2-1 via goals by **Ryan**

Burtini and **Jevon Guiseppi**, as well as a 1-1 draw between **Ridge Meadows SC Rowdies** and **Mission SC U21** that saw goals by Mission's **Riley Foster** and Ridge's **Curtis Smith**. In **Division 3B**, first place **Ladner FC** moved closer to winning the group thanks to a forfeit from **North Delta SC Titans**. They were kept honest, though, by second place **Whalley Wakanda**, as they beat **Langley United C** 3-1, thanks in large part to a **Geoffrey Bringi Yusif** brace, meaning Ladner still need at least one more with to claim the title.

They had to wait an extra week before getting back on the field, but **Tri City FC B** sure made it count when they did, as they are now just one point away from claiming the **Division 4A** title after an emphatic 5-1 win over **Aldergrove United** that saw **Sota Yoshida** register a hattrick. That win combined with **Mission SC B** being held to a 2-2 tie by **Ridge Meadows SC Dons** and a 4-2 loss for Poco FC Pacific to **Ridge Meadows SC Black Sheep** have put Tri City on the brink. Across in **Division 4B**, it was **North Delta SC 91s** taking a stranglehold on first place after their big 5-1 win over **Aldergrove United Lowlanders**. Five different scorers were on target for the 91s and they too were given a boost by results elsewhere. **Grass & Hops FC** were beaten 2-1 by **Surrey FC United**, leaving them five points off the pace in third. Meanwhile, second place **North Delta SC United SJ** dropped points in a 1-1 draw with **Surrey FC Temple** that saw SJ's **Lucas Howe** and Temple's **Jas Thiara** exchange goals. The tie means they sit three points back of the 91s with all of the top three sides having two matches remaining.

It was back-to-back wins in Masters 1 for Langley United Knights over North Delta SC Rangers. This time it was a 3-0 success on goals by Christian Bessmann and Will Folstad, plus a thirteenth of the season for leading scorer Jason Flint. The win moves Langley within one win of claiming the M1 championship. There was also an entertaining 3-3 draw this weekend between Aldergrove United Players and WRU South Surrey FC that ensured Aldergrove would not finish the season without a point to their name. Over in Masters 2, title winner Ridge Meadows SC Wolves celebrated their achievement with an 8-2 thrashing of Xwelmexw FC C that featured an impressive four goal performance by Pierre Poudre. There was also a hattrick outing for Jose Mendoza of America United, as he scored all three in their 3-2 win over Bradner Redshirts. Leaders Coastal FC Alumni had the week off in Masters 3, and second place Ridge Meadows SC Thunder used the opportunity to close the gap at the top to four points. The Thunder beat local rivals Ridge Meadows SC Chargers 6-2 thanks in part to braces by Ken Mann and top scorer Ken Laity, who took his tally to thirteen goals for the season as he looks to collect the Golden Boot at the end of the campaign.

MATCH OF THE WEEK

We have reached the business end of the season in Division 3B and two teams with very different agendas are set to clash this weekend. At the top, second place Whalley Wakanda need a win as they play their game in hand over leaders Ladner FC. Meanwhile, their opponents, North Surrey Mustangs B, are looking to collect the points they need to ensure they do not slip into the relegation places at the last minute. It has been a strong season for Whalley as they lead the group in goals against, with keeper Ethan Johannes having seen his goal breached only 19 times through fifteen games, while racking up a trio of clean sheets along the way. Up front, Mantey William Adjei leads the line with seven goals, but he is supported handily by Eyobel Michael and Geoffrey Bringi Yusif, who have six goals each. The heartbeat of the team, though, is Martin Achaye, who might not always pop up with a goal, but he is a focal point for the side week in, week out.



For North Surrey Mustangs B, the season has not been quite the same success as it has been for their older brothers in Division 2, where Mustangs A are contending for the title. However, other than one or two lopsided losses, Mustangs B have been fairly competitive this season. Unfortunately for them, they have lacked that clinical goal scoring ability that their "A" team seems to possess. A hattrick for Admire Musarurwa back at the beginning of October was enough to make him North Surrey's leading scorer at this level, and no one else has eclipsed that mark just yet. Despite all this, things are looking good for North Surrey to avoid the drop, they will not be keen to take any chances, however, a points against Whalley would be a nice way to shore up their status.

Whalley Wakanda v North Surrey Mustangs B goes Sunday night at 8pm at Tom Binnie Turf.

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