



Fraser Valley Soccer League



February 24, 2022

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

While much of the rest of the league was tidying things up and determining their champions, promoted teams, relegated teams and Provincial Cup entrants, there is still some way farther to go in the FVSL Premier Division. True, a champion has been crowned, but little else has been determined in the top flight. It was a busy and actioned packed week this week though, as there were eight games on the docket and, as has been the case seemingly all season, the weather was yet again a factor. When the dust settled, the division finds itself on the precipice of determining who is staying up, who is going down and who will be representing the league at the Provincial Cup. Check out the [FVSL Premier Review](#) to find out which teams sit where and who needs what results to go their way down the stretch.

While it may have seemed a forgone conclusion for some time now, the **Division 1** champions were finally confirmed this past week with **Tzeachten FC** defeating second place **TSS FC Rovers II U21** 4-1 to mathematically put them out of reach of Rovers. All the usual suspects were on target for Tzeachten in this one with leading scorer **Dale Long** scoring to take his total to 20 goals in 19 games. **Zenow Renaerts** and **Matthew Aikema** also scored with **Kaelen Grell** notching as well to ensure that all of Tzeachten's top scorers factored in the game that clinched them promotion to Premier. **Liam MacGowan** had the loan reply for TSS who were then held off the scoresheet altogether in a mid-week 0-0 draw with **North Delta SC NEWWAY**. That result left Rovers in third place with two games to play after **TWU Spartans B** picked up a 3-1 win over **FC Tigers Vancouver B** at the weekend thanks to brace from **David Saavedra**. Meanwhile, the scoreless mid-week draw for North Delta was much less entertaining than their exciting 3-3 draw at the weekend with local rivals **Surrey United SC B** in which **Ivan Bortolussi** scored twice for NEWWAY, but it was not enough to claim all the points. Perhaps the most important result of the weekend, however, came at the bottom of the table where a crucial goal by **Hartej Sidhu** delivered a 1-0 win for **Abbotsford United C** over **Premier Academy U21** to lift Abby to the cusp of safety and leave Premier fighting for their lives. Fortunately for Premier, their misery was not any further compounded as **Surrey United SC Reds U21** closed out their league campaign with a 3-0 win over **Juba FC** with **Kyle Johnston** making it braces in back-to-back games to end the season. Both Juba and Premier sit on seven points with two games left to play.

As noted in our Match of the Week section last week, it was set to be a chaotic finish to the **Division 2** schedule, and boy did the weekend's results deliver just that. First, in 2A, **Abbotsford United B** need a win to clinch the division title and leave **Mission SC A**, who had finished up a couple of weeks back, stuck in second place. **FC Faly B U21** had only pride to play for, but they certainly were not about to roll over and goals by **Steev Salim** and **Nikola Jovic**, along with an eleventh of the season for leading scorer Dylan **Katshunga Djungu-Sungu**, delivered an improbable 3-2 and handed Mission the title, as well as a shot at promotion. The excitement was just getting started as, in 2B, despite having been knocked out of the title race last time out, **Surrey United SC C** were still in with a chance of qualifying for the Provincial Cup, but they would need a win over a **Surrey FC Punjab** team who had a chance to claim the title with a win. United stalwart **Tyler Walters** scored to give his side a shot at making the post season dance, but it was cancelled out by a strike from Punjab's **Udayveer Singh Sran**. Unfortunately for both teams, that would be the only scoring in the match, leaving them both short of the goals they were hoping to achieve.



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There was, however, still some hope for Punjab, as a further draw between **Coastal FC** and **Langley United Dynamo** would trigger a four-way tie atop the division and unleash a web of various tie-breaking scenarios. It looked, for a time, as though things might be headed this way as the match teetered on the edge of a knife. In the end, the hero would be **Nick Geoheli**, who picked a fantastic time to pop up with his first goal of the season for Dynamo and it proved to be a title clinching goal at that with **Bryan Roman** and the division's best defense recording a Golden Glove tying sixth clean sheet of the season in a 1-0 win. Congratulations to both Mission and Dynamo who will now meet in a playoff to determine promotion to Division 1!

The **Division 3** schedule came to a close this weekend as well, and there was just one final matter to be determined: the 3B champion and promotion to Division 2. It all came down to a final showdown between first place **Ladner FC** and second place **Whalley Wakanda**. Only a win would do for Wakanda and leading scorer **Geoffrey Bringi Yusif** ensured that they had a chance as he scored his eleventh goal of the campaign. While Ladner have plenty of firepower of their own, it was an unlikely hero who came through in this match as **Matt Kirk** scored his first goal of the season. This is all Ladner would need on this night as they held on for the 1-1 draw to eek out the title and book a spot at the next level.

While the two champions in **Division 4** had already been crowned, the second promotion spot in 4A was still up for grabs as the majority of teams closed out their campaigns at the weekend. A win for either of **Mission SC B** or **Poco FC Pacific** would see them clinch second place and a spot in Division 3 for the fall. The game delivered an entertaining contest with both teams going for it knowing that a draw would leave their fate in the hands of others. **Costin Ionascu** scored for Poco, but it was not enough, as goals by **Richard Kraakman** and **Wilson Pham**, alongside an unfortunate own goal by Poco's **Evan Todd**, gave Mission a 3-1 win and secured them a spot in Division 3 next season.

Most of the Masters divisions had the weekend off, with one notable exception. Cup season got underway with the Preliminary Round of the **Masters B Cup**. Masters 3 sides Abbotsford Arsenal and North Delta SC Phoenix got the action underway with an entertaining opener that needed penalties to determine a winner. Mariusz Kucharek scored for North Delta with Jonathan Maddalozzo on target for Abby before North Delta eventually advanced on spot kicks. An exciting way to begin the cup season and hopefully there are plenty more enticing and enthralling matches to come!

MATCH OF THE WEEK

As mentioned, we are headed towards cup season and this week the Preliminary round of the Garry Knights Presidents Cup gets underway. The Presidents Cup always serves up intriguing matchups with teams from different pools and divisions get a chance to test themselves against each other. To begin with, we take a look at an interesting matchup between a team that was able to gather the points they needed down the final stretch to keep their heads above water in Division 3, taking on a side that just barely missed out on promotion from Division 4. It was quite the hectic finish to the season for Xwelmexw FC A, with games stacking up after all the weather cancellations this season. They were in danger of seeing their entire season come down to a final day showdown to stay up, but, instead, they were able to take care of business with a few games to spare and can now focus on a potential cup run. Despite their struggles in the results column, Xwelmexw actually had one of the most potent offenses in



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3A, scoring 53 times this season. A joint third-worst defensive record, though, hampered their ability to climb the table. They will be hoping their talisman and leading scorer Mathew Point, who netted 13 times in Division 3 as well as a further 12 times while playing in Division 4 and Masters, can power their offense to a cup win. Meanwhile, despite a few matches with some shaky defending, Xwelmxw will count on goalkeeper Dylan Hugh to be at his best this weekend.

For the Black Sheep, a meandering start to the season came back to haunt them at the final tally as, despite being within touching distance of second place and promotion after a six match unbeaten run that featured five wins, they will play in Division 4 again next season. Despite this, they will be looking to get a taste of the competition at that level with a good cup run and hopefully carry that experience into next year. Ridge Meadows had a middling season from an offensive standpoint, although Jonathan Candia did find his way to near the top of the scoring charts with 12 goals to his name. Their real strength, though, was their defensive play, which counted them among the best sides in their group, having allowed only 22 goals over in 17 games. Goalkeeper Ben Zabierek led the charge on this front with four clean sheets on the season. Additionally, while they were not always amongst the goals, the solid play and leadership from both Seth Injates and Jake Lloyd were a large part of the Black Sheep's success this season. Ridge Meadows will need to be firing on all cylinders if they are to begin the cup season with a bang and cause an upset!

Xwelmxw FC A v Ridge Meadows SC Black Sheep is Sunday evening at 4pm at Scowlitz Sports Park.

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