



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



April 11, 2022

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

Just like that, the 2021-22 FVSL Season has drawn to a close. However, there is still the matter of the Provincial Cup to attend to – as the league's best will be keen to hone their game ahead of representing the Fraser Valley in British Columbia's premier amateur soccer event. There was also the small matter of determining who lifts both the Pakenham Cup and the Soccer City Cup to attend to as well. Additionally, there were a handful of outstanding league matches to determine the final table, as well as the final FVSL Premier Division award winners for the season.

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

## **PACKENHAM CUP FINAL**

### **FC Tigers Vancouver 2-1 Abbotsford United – Sunday 6:00pm; Mission Sports Park Turf**

Holders Abbotsford United were determined to make a fist of retaining the Pakenham Cup, having already seen newcomers FC Tigers make of with their Premier League crown. In their three prior league meetings this season it had been all Tigers, as they took all nine points on offer, accounting for the spread between these two teams at the top of the table. Indeed, Abbotsford had only manage to breach the Tigers' defense on one previous occasion, with Premier Division Golden Glove winner **Lukas Strauts** earning a pair of clean sheets at United's expense. However, in a late twist, Strauts was replaced in the starting lineup just prior to kick off by **Justyn Sandhu**, perhaps changing the dynamic of this match.

Both teams started brightly, but while Abby looked someone bereft in front of goal, Tigers did what they do best and were clinical in finishing off their first chance of the match. **Erik Edwardson** tucked home from close range to open the scoring after he and captain **Farivar Torabi** had combined to win the ball, with Torabi then squaring it across the face of goal for Edwardson to finish. Tigers looked to go from strength to strength and build on their lead, but some last ditch defending and some timely interventions by United keeper **Mike Haladin** allowed Abby to ride out the early pressure. Soon the holders began to grow into the match and, suddenly, it was Tigers on the back foot. Attackers **Daniel Davidson** and **Connor Hildebrant** were growing in confidence at the top of the pitch for Abbotsford. However, the were not able to apply the telling touch needed to pull United level, and they along with their teammates must have quietly been beginning to wonder if they would rue these missed chances. Then, ten minutes before half time, despite being one of the more diminutive players on the park, **Colton O'Neil** came up big once more for Abby, getting his head to a viciously whipped in corner kick and blazing it into the net to level things up. United had their tails up now and were probably somewhat sad to see the half time whistle blow.

After the interval, though, they more or less picked up right where they left off as Tigers continued to be on the back foot with Abbotsford and, in particular, **Ryan Donald**, putting in a top effort. That said, every time Tigers did venture forward, they looked a threat and Haladin continued to be sharp when called upon. After a tense half that saw both teams somewhat wasteful in front of goal this match seemed sure to require more than just regular time. That was until Edwardson sent in an absolute peach of a cross in injury time that Torabi timed to perfection as he thundered hit finish off the



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underside of the crossbar and just over the line to deliver the knockout blow right at the death! It was a thrilling climax to the match and both teams could be proud of the performance they put forward.

Congratulations to FC Tigers – the 2022 Pakenham Cup Champions!

## SOCCER CITY CUP FINAL

### **FC Tigers Vancouver 2-1 Whitecaps FC U19 – Sunday 6:00pm; Willoughby Turf SW**

A week after raising their second piece of silverware already this year, FC Tigers had a chance to complete the FVSL treble if they could lift the Soccer City Cup. Standing in their way this time were the young Whitecaps FC U19 crew, fresh off of a successful FVSL debut campaign of their own. Just as they had done the prior week in the Pakenham Cup final, Tigers began the match on the front foot. Just over ten minutes into the match Tigers made their pressure tell by pouncing first as the ball bounced around after a corner kick. After their initial effort clanged back off the far post it was **Danylo Smychenko** who was first to react and stab it home from close range. Following the opening goal, Tigers continued to control the play. The young 'Caps were well organized and difficult to break down, but struggled to keep hold of the ball themselves and Tigers keeper **Lukas Strauts** was rarely threatened. Before the break, Tigers doubled their advantage after some great build up play culminated in a vicious cross that was turned into his own goal by Whitecaps defender **Eric Lajeunesse**. While he did not get credit on the scoresheet, **Nima Moazeni Zadeh** did much of the work in the build up to the goal and was a force all night for Tigers. It was an unfortunate ending to the half for the U19s, but they did seem to regroup at the break and come out with slightly more offensive purpose in the second period. With twenty minutes to play they were rewarded for their endeavor as some slick build up ended with a pinpoint pass to slip **Joven Mann** behind the defense and he made no mistake at all, slipping a composed finish into the bottom corner. There was just one goal in it now and Whitecaps upped the ante even further as they went in search of an equalizer. Credit to Tigers, though, as they showed the heart of a champion and put in the defensive work to see out the result. Congratulations to Tigers on winning all three trophies the FVSL Premier Division has on offer and being named 2021-22 Soccer City Cup Champions!

## LEAGUE PLAY

### **FCT Academy 1-2 FC Faly – Saturday 8:00pm; Cloverdale Turf #3**

A difficult season drew to a close for FCT Academy with one final match against FC Faly. Faly, on the other hand, still had a slew of matches to make up and were fighting to climb up the table into fourth place to finish off the season. Despite playing only for pride, FCT were motivated for this match and that resulted in a high tempo and high energy clash. The game was very even throughout, with the pace and skill of both teams taking centre stage. FCT may have just shaded things offensively, however, and they were rewarded with **Adam Kavanagh**, who has been a stalwart figure for the Academy all season, adding a final goal to his tally for the season. **Grant Verhoeven** also turned in a top performance for the Academy boys in this match as they looked to end their campaign on a high. As it has seemingly been for FCT all season, though, it was just not enough on this night. While Faly may have had the fewer chances in front of goal, they were clinical with their efforts when they presented themselves. Goals by budding superstar **Sairoob Sairoob**, as well as **Steev Salim**, ensured it would be Faly pocketing the points and climbing the table. While he did not factor directly on the scoresheet, **Brian Del Carpio** was



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influential all game for Faly and a big reason why they were able to win and begin to build momentum towards the Provincial Cup.

## **Micro Footie Academy 0-7 FC Tigers Vancouver – Sunday 6:00pm; Hjorth Turf #1**

There was one final league appearance for FC Tigers as they looked to confirm some individual awards to finish the season. For Micro Footie, they had put in the hard work to ensure survival and were simply closing out the season. This may explain their rather drab performance on the night as, aside from a solid outing by **Isaac Kong-Waller**, MFA looked ready for the summer to come. For Tiger, though, they smelled an opportunity to pad their stats and leading scorer **Farivar Torabi** took full advantage, scoring a brace to claim the 2021-22 FVSL Premier Division Golden Boot with a spectacular 36 goals in 23 games. Not to be left out of the fun, second leading scorer **Erik Edwardson** popped up with a goal of his own to finish the season with 19 tallies to his name. Meanwhile, having been the creative influence so often throughout the year for Tigers, **Ivan Mejia** was once more at his best in this match, dictating much of the play. Often his work goes on in the background while others claim the headlines, but, on this night, he too found his way onto the scoresheet, scoring twice. Rounding out the scoring was **Connor MacMillan** who added a pair as well, having become a regular contributor for the league winners after joining them mid-season. At the back end, it was a relatively routine night for the goalkeeping duo of FVSL Premier Division Golden Glove winner **Lukas Strauts** and **Justyn Sandhu**, who split the work in this match and combined to rebuff anything Micro Footie could muster. All in all, it was a successful final league outing for the Champions as they get ready to take their show to the BC Soccer Provincial A Cup, beginning at the end of April.

## **FC Faly 3-3 Langley United – Wednesday 9:00pm; Windsor Secondary Turf**

The final match of the FVSL Premier Division season saw a pair of teams getting ready for the Provincial Cup lock horns one final time. Also on the line were bragging rights for fourth place in the table as Faly, with their games in hand at the end of the season, had moved one point ahead of Langley coming into this game. It was clear that both these sides were keen on hitting top form prior to the Provincials and, in an interesting twist, these teams knew they would be meeting in the first round of that competition. So, perhaps both teams were playing this one in a somewhat cagey fashion. If that was the case, though, it did not show on the scoresheet as the two teams went at it hammer and tongs for 90 minutes. Continuing a pair of breakout seasons with Faly, both **Athos Michellepis de Sequeira** and **Sairoob Sairoob** finished the season in fine form and will hope to carry that momentum into the post-season tournament. Both players netted their eighth goal of the season, making them joint top scorers alongside **Anastazi Nahayo**. Also scoring for Faly was another young up-and-comer in the form of youth call up David Howard. The veterans on Langley, though, were bang up for this match and **Brayden Grant**, who is rounding into top form at the right time of the season for Langley, notched a brace. One of Langley's hopeful future stars, Brennen Slawter, also chipped in with a goal. When the dust settled these sides split the points and headed off to regroup for the rematch at the end of the month!



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Here's the FVSL Premier 2021-22 FINAL TABLE:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 <b>FC Tigers Vancouver A</b>	23	21	1	1	99	15	84	64
 <b>Abbotsford United A</b>	23	15	1	7	75	36	39	46
 <b>Vancouver Whitecaps U19</b>	23	13	5	5	54	22	32	44
 <b>FC Faly A</b>	23	10	2	11	39	50	-11	32
 <b>Langley United A</b>	23	8	7	8	37	50	-13	31
 <b>Surrey United SC A</b>	23	6	2	15	43	70	-27	20
 <b>Micro Footie Academy</b>	23	5	2	16	31	79	-48	17
 <b>TWU Spartans A</b>	9	3	4	2	17	12	5	13
 <b>FCT Academy</b>	23	3	4	16	27	76	-49	13
 <b>Surrey FC Royals</b>	9	2	2	5	12	24	-12	8

## BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

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Thank you to Brown's Social House for their support this season and congratulations to all the players who took home the honours as Brown's Social House Player of the Week in 2021-22.

We look forward to rewarding more great performances next season!





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## The Challenge Series

### Surrey FC Royals 1-1 FC Faly – Thursday 8:30pm; Towcentre - Cunnings

The final *Challenge Series* fixture of the season saw FC Faly finally get their chance to tangle with Surrey Royals. If this match had a bit of a “late season” vibe to it coming in, things quickly got exciting when the teams took to the pitch. Royals were clearly keen to cap the season with a win, while Faly were looking to move into fourth place ahead of their final match against Langley. Despite the effort from both sides, they more or less cancelled each other out all over the park on this night, and that wound up being the case on the scoresheet as well. As he has been for most of the campaign, Matteo Falcone was sensational for Surrey on the night and he rounded out his season by scoring his sixth goal in just twelve matches across all competitions. Faly, though, had an answer and on this night that answer was Rafael Elias de Oliveira Mont Alegre Jorge as he scored for the visitors to top off a standout performance. In the end, the teams would split the points, with both sides no doubt keen for a further meeting in the future!

### **BC SOCCER PROVINCIAL A-CUP FIRST ROUND SCHEDULE:**

Fri 4/22/2022 7:30PM	CMF Wolves (VMSL) vs. Inter EDC (VMSL)	Charles Best Turf
Fri 4/22/2022 8:15PM	BB5 Utd. CCB (VMSL) vs. BCT Hurricanes (VMSL)	Newton Turf #1
Sat 4/23/2022 2:30PM	Nanaimo Utd. (VISL) vs. Vic West (VISL)	Beban Park
Sat 4/23/2022 3:00PM	West Van FC (VMSL) vs. Bays Utd. (VISL)	Ambleside Turf D
Sat 4/23/2022 4:00PM	<b>FC Tigers Vancouver vs. Surrey United</b>	Cloverdale Turf #3
Sat 4/23/2022 4:00PM	Rino’s Coastal (VMSL) vs. Cowichan FC (VISL)	South Surrey Turf #10
Sat 4/23/2022 8:00PM	<b>FC Faly vs. Langley United</b>	Empire Turf South
Sun 4/24/2022 12:00PM	Lakehill FC (VISL) vs. <b>Abbotsford United</b>	Braefoot Park Turf

Best of luck to all the FVSL teams competing. Good luck also to all the teams competing in the Fraser Valley Soccer League Spring Season and we look forward to another fun and entertaining campaign next September!

**Check out full FVSL Matches from this season on YouTube at [BC Sports Media](#)**

Send NEWS to [media@fraservalleysoccer.com](mailto:media@fraservalleysoccer.com)

And for more information on the FVSL go to [fraservalleysoccer.com](http://fraservalleysoccer.com)



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