



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



January 19, 2022

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

Finally! The snow mercifully thawed this past week and the FVSL was able to emerge from an unexpectedly extended winter break. The FVSL Premier Division has plenty of games to fit in between now and the end of the season, and this latest stretch of weather certainly did not help matters. The matches will be coming fast and furious from now through March and there were a half a dozen fixtures on the docket this week to get us ready for the stretch drive.

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

## **Langley United 1-1 FCT Academy – Friday 8:30pm; Willoughby Turf SW**

Clearly both these sides were itching to get back at things and the temperature in this match rose quickly. The tackles were flying in, with both teams in a surly mood, and things only intensified after Langley felt they were denied a shout for a first half penalty. **Brody Thomas** was putting himself about for United and spurring the home team on as they looked to continue a surge in form that saw them climb back into the Provincial Cup places prior to the holiday. On the other side, FCT were still hovering in the depths of the table, but their performances had improved of late, and **Darius Motazed** was emblematic of this uptick in form as he put in a solid shift on the night. A first goal of the season for Langley's **Nicholas Cantelon** gave United the hope of returning to winning ways following two less than satisfying draws to close out 2021, however **Eric Hatungimana** made it two goals in as many games for FCT either side of the winter layoff and the teams settled for a draw to kick off the New Year.

## **FC Tigers Vancouver 2-0 Abbotsford United – Saturday 8:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #3**

Even though it was only the first match back in the New Year for these two sides, and there are still plenty of matches to go, this game had major title implications already. Defending champs Abbotsford have a slew of fixtures to make up and are capable of closing much of the gap between themselves and first place Tigers, however, they cannot quite catch them up. Thus, a six-pointer like this was crucially poised for both teams as they got 2022 underway. The importance of this match was clear from the off and the teams provided a well-fought contest. The early exchanges produced little in the way of clear cut chances until **Nima Moazeni Zadeh** produced a real moment of quality to give Tigers the lead. After starting the play with a through ball into the corner, Tigers kept alive a rather speculative cross into the area. Moazeni Zadeh had alertly followed the play up the field, though, and was able to latch onto the ball inside the area before putting a sublime move on the defender and slotting it home. The match resumed its stalemate following the goal, with both defenses appearing to cope well with the respective attacking threats of both teams and the score remained unchanged into halftime. Early after the restart Tigers struck once more as a clinical attacking move provided them their insurance marker. They won a knockdown in midfield and captain **Farivar Torabi** deftly engineered the ball into the path of **Erik Edwardson** who made not mistake at all in doubling the lead. Abbotsford continued to prod and probe for a way back, but, in truth, failed to must much of anything to really trouble **Lukas Strauts** in the Tigers' goal. In the end, those two moments of quality separated the teams and gave Tigers a crucial three points in their quest for the title. Despite the loss, Abby goalkeeper **Mike Haladin** was solid on the night, and there was not much he could have done on the two goals that did beat him. United will now need some help if they are going to retain their title.



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## **FC Faly 4-1 Surrey United – Sunday 6:00pm; Hjorth Turf #1**

Both of these side closed out 2021 with frustrating losses, so after an extra week to stew over their respective results, they took to the field to resume their campaigns. It was FC Faly who seemed to come out of the layoff with slightly more jump and the field was quickly tilted with the home side wracking up chances and set pieces. They were not able to make the breakthrough, however, and just before half time Surrey United punished them for their wastefulness. On a set piece of their own, Surrey recycled a poor attempted clearance by Faly and, at the second time of asking, **Evan Chow** rose highest and nodded it home at the back post to give United a lead at the interval. Faly were undeterred, though, and emerged from the break still on the front foot. It took until the hour mark, but a lovely long range effort from **Anastazi Nahayo** flew into the back of the net and levelled the match. Conceding the equalizer seemed to spur Surrey on as they had clearly acquired a taste for all three points, having led for so long, and the teams began to trade chances. This time around it was a flurry of Surrey set pieces that came to nothing before Faly hit back. It was Nahayo who was on target once more, finishing a cut back low into the bottom corner with less than a quarter of an hour to play. In the dying minutes Surrey surely thought they had clawed back a point as, with the keeper up for a late corner kick, United put their effort off the post and were unable to turn home the follow up. In the dying minutes, with Surrey pushing everyone forward, **Athos De Siqueira** picked up the ball at midfield for Faly and, spotting the keeper off his line, measure a long range effort that made sure of the result on this night. Despite the lateness of the goal, there was still time for De Siqueira to complete his brace as, shortly after paly resumed, he was sent in on a breakaway and tucked home his second of the match confidently.

## **Vancouver Whitecaps U19 6-0 Micro Footie Academy – Wednesday 7:10pm; UBC NTC**

Two sides had to wait even a few days longer to get back to the action in their seasons in January, but when they did get back on their pitch, Micro Footie may well have wished they could have had another week off. It was one way traffic in this one, with Whitecaps romping to a comfortable win. **Brennen Fuerst** was the standout performer on the day, as he made everything tick from a 'Caps perspective and topped it all off by scoring a lovely goal. The offense was a team effort on the day for the home side, with **Eloliyon Mutombo** and **Josh Tome** joining Fuerst on the scoresheet, along with **Clarke-Toscza** **Nikos** and **William Antoniuk**. There was also a first league goal of the season for **Tomas Pena**, who had found the net four times previously this year, but all of those were in the SC Cup. **Ben Alexander** took over between the pipes for the Whitecaps in this one and kept a clean sheet as his team look to hold onto second place with a motivated Abbotsford side set to make up a number of matches just behind them. For MFA, it was an evening to forget, although the play of **Henrique Claros** and **Tate Davidson** was something to potentially build off.



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**Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 14:**

| Team   | GP | W  | D | L | GF | GA | GD  | PTS |
|--|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
|  <b>FC Tigers Vancouver A</b>   | 13 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 42 | 8  | 34  | 34  |
|  <b>Vancouver Whitecaps U19</b> | 14 | 6  | 4 | 4 | 28 | 18 | 10  | 22  |
|  <b>FC Faly A</b>               | 12 | 7  | 0 | 5 | 25 | 25 | 0   | 21  |
|  <b>Abbotsford United A</b>     | 10 | 6  | 0 | 4 | 32 | 16 | 16  | 18  |
|  <b>Langley United A</b>        | 14 | 4  | 5 | 5 | 19 | 22 | -3  | 17  |
|  <b>Surrey United SC A</b>      | 12 | 4  | 1 | 7 | 23 | 29 | -6  | 13  |
|  <b>Micro Footie Academy</b>    | 13 | 3  | 1 | 9 | 18 | 40 | -22 | 10  |
|  <b>FCT Academy</b>             | 13 | 2  | 3 | 8 | 19 | 44 | -25 | 9   |
|  <b>TWU Spartans A</b>         | 5  | 2  | 2 | 1 | 11 | 9  | 2   | 8   |
|  <b>Surrey FC Royals</b>      | 4  | 1  | 1 | 2 | 6  | 12 | -6  | 4   |

## **BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK**



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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Anastazi Nahayo** from Faly FC. Nahayo scored a lovely brace to help Faly comeback from a goal behind to claim a victory over Surrey United. Both of his goals were really well taken, with one a pinpoint long-range effort and the other a neat finish inside the area. The goals showcased why Nahayo find himself in the upper echelons of the scoring charts, with seven goals already this season, and why FC Faly are in the upper reaches of the table.

Congratulations Anastazi, you have won a \$25 gift card courtesy of Brown's Social House!



## **THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:**

Fri 1/21/2022 8:30PM

Sat 1/22/2022 6:00PM

Sat 1/22/2022 8:00PM

Sun 1/23/2022 6:00PM

Wed 1/26/2022 9:00PM

**Langley United vs. Surrey United**

**Whitecaps U19 vs. FC Tigers Vancouver**

**FCT Academy vs. Abbotsford United**

**FC Faly vs. Micro Footie Academy**

**FC Faly vs. Langley United**

Willoughby Turf SW

UBC NTC

Cloverdale Ath. #3

Hjorth Turf #1

Willoughby Turf SW



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There is another busy week on the horizon for the teams in the FVSL's topflight. Abbotsford United will play another pair of fixtures as they look to make up ground in the standings. Abby visit FCT Academy, who will try to do their cousins FC Tigers a favour, before they then welcome TWU for a *Challenge Series* matchup. The team Abbotsford are closest to reeling in, FC Faly, also play twice this week, hosting Micro Footie at the weekend and then clashing with Langley mid-week. For their part, Langley will tangle with forever rivals Surrey United on Friday night in the fourth meeting between the sides this season. Meanwhile, the marquee fixture this week is likely FC Tigers heading to UBC to take on second place Whitecaps U19. Their most recent meeting finished as a stalemate and that it one of only two occasions where Tigers have been denied maximum points so far this season. Can Whitecaps do it again or, possibly, even go one better this time around?

## *The Challenge Series*

### **TWU Spartans 1-1 Langley United – Wednesday 9:00pm; Willoughby Turf SW**

The *Challenge Series* resumed with a tasty local derby between Langley United and Trinity Western. The players from these two groups know each other well and both teams were in the mood for this one. Overall, it was a fairly even contest over the ninety minutes, with both teams having chances and a draw likely the right result. Langley goalkeeper **Nuno Jesus** was again in top form, though, to ensure his side a share of the points, while **Thomas Powell** was once again a standout for TWU. It was **Charles Freddy Tchouya Nana** who scored for the University side, making it his fourth goal in five games with the "A" squad, having become a regular fixture on the scoresheet for the "B" group so far this season. **Brayden Gant** had the tally for Langley United.

### **Abbotsford United 5-0 Surrey FC Royals – Thursday 9:00pm; Moat Turf #3**

Unfortunately, this match had to be forfeit by Surrey Royals due to covid concerns in their camp. As the schedule is so congested with make up fixtures as a result of the weather, there was no opportunity to play this match at a later date.

### **This week's fixtures:**

**Tue 1/25/2022 8:00PM**

**Abbotsford United vs. TWU Spartans**

**Moat Turf #3**

**\*\*NEW THIS SEASON\*\*** – Check out full FVSL Matches on YouTube at [BC Sports Media](https://www.youtube.com/BCSportsMedia)

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

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



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