



Fraser Valley Soccer League



January 26, 2022

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

The results are coming fast and furious now as the FVSL Premier Division schedule enters its final third. The weather continued to throw a wrench in things, with the fog chalking off a mid-week make up between Faly and Langley. However, another five matches this week saw plenty of movement in the table, with Abbotsford now back up into second place. There was also another solid win for FC Tigers, who maintained their stranglehold on first place with a strong performance away at Whitecaps U19. Meanwhile, there was an emphatic win for Langley over rivals Surrey to but even more distance between the two sides with Langley looking to lock up a berth for the Provincial Cup.

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

Langley United 5-1 Surrey United – Friday 8:30pm; Willoughby Turf SW

It was the fourth, and final, meeting between Forever Rivals Surrey United and Langley United, barring a meeting in the Pakenham Cup final. Surrey took the first two meetings, winning in the SC Cup and to begin the season, but Langley got on the board with a win in Cloverdale the last time these two tangled. It would be Langley who seized the early initiative in this one when they were awarded an early penalty and captain **Scott Barling**, who had another outstanding performance in this match from start to finish, smashed it down the middle to open the scoring. Langley looked to be on the front foot, but part way through the half a miscue between keeper **Nuno Jesus** and his defenders led to Surrey pouncing and youth call up **Tyler Sayers** notching an equalizer. Jesus would more than make up for the error, though, as he spent the rest of the match putting on his usual display of acrobatics, when necessary, to frustrate the Surrey attackers the rest of the night. At the other end, Langley were threatening once more and this time it was veteran player-coach **Azad Palani** giving his young charges a lesson on how to finish. The ball found Palani in the box and he laid down a few savvy moves on the defenders and keeper before slotting home to restore his team's lead. Then, just before the break, Surrey's night took a hard turn when **Evan Chow** was sent off for a challenge along the touchline. After the break, though, Surrey continued to give as good as they got, threatening on few occasions to claw their way back into the match, despite their manpower disadvantage, with **Denis Ananga** bustling around up front and causing problems for the Langley backline. Unfortunately for them, a pair of goals within three minutes for veteran Langley striker **John Craig** part way through the half but this game out of reach and left all of Surrey's efforts for naught. There was still time for first Premier goal for Langley youngster **Brody Thomas** as well, as he rounded out the scoring with a lovely, lobbed effort in injury time.

Vancouver Whitecaps U19 1-2 FC Tigers Vancouver – Saturday 6:00pm; UBC NTC

The top two sides coming into the weekend clashed out at UBC with FC Tigers keen to maintain their wide margin in top spot. The match was played at a ferocious tempo with both teams operating at full capacity throughout. **Rohin Kapila** was the man pulling the strings for the young Whitecaps on this day, while **Ivan Mejia** was stirring the drink for Tigers. The football was easy on the eye and a great advert for the best the FVSL has to offer. After trading some half chances each way to start the match, halfway through the first half Tigers man Mejia showed of a sublime piece of individual brilliance, dancing his way into the area before belting a curing effort in at the far post to open the scoring. Simply sensational. Following the goal, Tigers enjoyed a spell on the front foot, but were unable to add to their



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lead before the break. In the second half, things were once more back and forth, with each side knowing that the next goal could prove crucial. It took awhile to come and, when it did, it was shrouded in some controversy. Tigers worked a nice move down the right before cutting the ball back to the top of the area. The attempted shot was partially blocked but squeezed its way through to **Arjun Mann** who was unmarked in front of goal. The problem being, Mann looked to have been left behind in an offside position when the 'Caps defenders had stepped out moments earlier. However, the flag never went up and Mann had the simplest of finishes to double the lead. With less than a quarter hour to play, Tigers looked to see the match out, and things were going to plan until a cheap giveaway near midfield sent the Whitecaps off on the attack. The initial through ball was too far ahead and Tigers keeper **Lukas Strauts** was quick off his line. Rather than play it into touch, though, Strauts opted to send it long up the field where 'Caps man **Joven Mann** latched onto it and smashed a wonderful volley from distance into the unguarded cage. It made for a nervy final few minutes for the league leaders, but the home side were not able to muster another chance of quality within the time that remained.

FCT Academy 0-2 Abbotsford United – Saturday 8:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #3

Elsewhere on Saturday night, there was a much desired return to winning ways for Abbotsford United. Abby had been awarded a win mid-week in the *Challenge Series* when Surrey FC were unable to play due to Covid concerns, but this was their first real win since the beginning of November. That is certainly not the period of time between victories to which this team has become accustomed! After being on the wrong end of a highly competitive game the week previous against FCT's big brothers, Tigers, this time around it was Abbotsford's turn to have that little bit extra. In yet another high tempo and evenly contested match, Abby had the quality to make the difference, thanks in large part to the O'Neill twins and goalkeeper **Mike Haladin**. Haladin was rock solid at the back, repelling everything FCT could muster. Meanwhile, at the other end, both **Connor O'Neill** and **Colton O'Neill** were on target, with Colton in particular having a standout performance. The brothers have been at the core of this Abbotsford team for several seasons now and they would have, no doubt, been hit hard by United's recent downturn in form. Their goals provided a much needed win and, perhaps, a platform from which they can climb the table. For FCT, it was a solid performance, but they will be rueing their lack of finish. **Darius Motazed** played well in the loss, but he too could not find the back of the net.

FC Faly 1-2 Micro Footie Academy – Sunday 6:00pm; Hjorth Turf #1

After failing to get out of first gear in their first match back from the holidays last time out, Micro Footie hit the reset button during the week and came back with a much stronger performance this time out. The teams looked to be fairly even through the opening half hour, but then MFA struck for a pair of goals in a five minute span. For the opener, a corner kick was not at all dealt with by Faly and came through to the back post where it was stabbed home. Moments later, further suspect defending saw Faly beat by a long ball forward that led to a breakaway which was calmly slotted home. **Tim Joy** and **Pierce Moore** were the men on target for Micro Footie, however, before the break Faly were handed a lifeline back into the match when they were awarded a penalty. Last week's hero **Anastazi Nahayo** stepped to the mark, but his effort was well saved by MFA keeper **Isaac Kong-Waller**, diving to his right. In the second half, whatever was said during the Faly team talk at the break seemed to pay off as they were onto the front foot, searching for a way back into the match. MFA were resolute and kept Faly mostly to the perimeter until part way through the period when a clumsy challenge at the top of the area led to yet another Faly penalty. Nahayo was handed his chance for redemption and there were to



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be no repeat heroics from Kong-Waller this time around as the Faly man finished low into the corner. This set up a grandstand finish and Faly threw everything they had at finding an equalizer, but it was to no avail. It is an important three points for MFA as they look to keep alive the chance of a late season Provincial Cup push. **Tiegen Kyle**, along with Joy and Kong-Waller, were crucial in defense and helped MFA secure the victory. For Faly, **Soumaila Savane** had one of his best performances of the season.

Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 15:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 FC Tigers Vancouver A	14	12	1	1	44	9	35	37
 Abbotsford United A	12	7	1	4	35	17	18	22
 Vancouver Whitecaps U19	15	6	4	5	29	20	9	22
 FC Faly A	13	7	0	6	26	27	-1	21
 Langley United A	15	5	5	5	24	23	1	20
 Surrey United SC A	13	4	1	8	24	34	-10	13
 Micro Footie Academy	14	4	1	9	20	41	-21	13
 TWU Spartans A	6	2	3	1	12	10	2	9
 FCT Academy	14	2	3	9	19	46	-27	9
 Surrey FC Royals	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 **Colton O'Neill** from Abbotsford United. O'Neill put in a pair of standout, and much needed, performances for Abbotsford this week, scoring twice and helping United collect four points. The results see Abby vault back up the table into second place as they continue their title defense.

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





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THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Fri 1/28/2022 8:45PM	Surrey United vs. FCT Academy	Cloverdale Ath. #2
Sat 1/29/2022 6:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. Whitecaps U19	UBC NTC
Sat 1/29/2022 8:00PM	FC Tigers Vancouver vs. FC Faly	Cloverdale Ath. #3
Sun 1/23/2022 6:00PM	Micro Footie Academy vs. Langley United	Hjorth Turf #1

This week features a pair of top four matchups with first place Tigers hosting fourth place Faly, the only team to beat them so far this season. Meanwhile, Abbotsford United, having climbed back up the table and into second place, play a Whitecaps U19 team level with them on points. The teams have had some good battle so far this season, with Abby taking the first league meeting rather handily before the 'Caps edged them in the return fixture and then again in the SC Cup semis. Further down the table, Langley United will be looking to keep pace with the top four, and perhaps even climb into it, when they visit Micro Footie on Sunday. Elsewhere, Surrey United will be desperate to put some points on the board and get their season back on the tracks when they get the weekend's action started Friday night against FCT Academy.

The Challenge Series

Abbotsford United 1-1 TWU Spartans – Tuesday 8:00pm; Moat Turf #3

It was an enthralling contest Tuesday night at Mouat as two teams that know each other well locked horns in the *Challenge Series*. There was yet another goal for TWU's **Charles Freddy Tchouya Nana**, as he continued his impressive scoring run. However, that tally was cancelled out by a goal from Abby's **Colton O'Neill**, who built on an impressive weekend outing and made it goals in back-to-back matches. Trinity's **Thomas Powell** had a solid game, while **Tyson Hunter** was a standout for United as the teams each pocketed a point.

This week's fixtures:

Thu 2/3/2022 8:00PM	Surrey FC Royals vs. FC Tigers Vancouver	Towncentre - Cunnings
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