



Fraser Valley Soccer League



February 3, 2022

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

For yet another week, the weather played its part on the top flight schedule. This time, Wednesday night's light dusting of snow prevented FC Faly and Langley from meeting yet again. Meanwhile, Covid-19 reminded us all that it is still very much a reality, as it forced a forfeit by Abbotsford United against Whitecaps U19, in what was otherwise set to be one of the marquee fixtures of the season. Despite the games that did not get played, there was plenty of action on the field as well this week with leaders FC Tigers edging closer to claiming the title, Langley United delivering an entertaining win to climb the table and recent strugglers Surrey United and FCT Academy locking horns in a match where it was at least guaranteed that someone was sure to get points!

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

Surrey United 1-2 FCT Academy – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic #2

It was all to play for between Surrey United and FCT Academy given the recent struggles that both teams have experienced. Surrey are looking to stay alive in the fight for the final Provincial Cup berth, but the teams ahead of them continue to pick up points, only emphasizing United need to pull out of their current tailspin. For FCT, they have been putting in better performances overall of late, but they are looking to turn that into results. To that effect, this match presented a great opportunity for both sides and that was clear to those looking on from the start. The game was a solid battle with chances in the final third coming at a premium. Both teams did find a way through, though, with Surrey getting on the board courtesy of a **Noah Holmes** own goal and **Dongyeon Kim** scoring at the right end of the field from an FCT perspective. Top performances by Surrey's **Ayman Hamza** and FCT's **Yoonsung Hwang** had both teams believing they could pull out all three points as the match approached full time. In the end it was FCT who found the killer instinct as **Jaekyeong Kwon** struck in injury time to secure the win for the visitors. It was an exciting finish, but Surrey will be frustrated not to have taken their chances!

FC Tigers Vancouver 4-0 FC Faly – Saturday 8:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #3

As the only team to have defeated Tigers this season, FC Faly were looking to catch lightning in a bottle once again when the teams met for a final time in league action. Indeed, the visitors did have perhaps the better of the early exchanges, with **Sairoob Sairoob**, to the surprise of no one, spearheading the Faly offense. However, they could not make their chances count, and Tigers pounced. Just after the half hour mark, Tigers picked off a Faly pass as they tried to move out of their defensive third and one pass later the ball was at the foot of leading scorer **Farivar Torabi**. Torabi collected the ball just inside the area and wasted little time dispatching an arrow into the back of the net to take his tally for the season to an even dozen. Things got even better for Tigers before half time as **Mihai Hodut** saw what appeared to be a mis-hit cross sail into the roof of the net to double the lead for the home side. To their credit, Faly regrouped at halftime and looked for a way back into things. The young side had the lion's share of the ball in the second half, but could not find a way through **Lukas Strauts** in the Tigers goal, as he recorded a division leading eighth clean sheet on this night. Tigers were happy enough to sit back and look to hit Faly on the counterattack, and that is exactly what **Erik Edwardson** did just before the hour mark to effectively finish the match off as a contest. After winning the ball back at the top of their own penalty area, the home side went from defense to offense in the blink of an eye before Edwardson



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perfectly timed his run to latch onto a through ball and slot it home. Right at the death, **Ivan Mejia** capped off another top outing by drawing a penalty and then slotting it home.

Micro Footie Academy 2-4 Langley United – Sunday 6:00pm; Hjorth Turf #1

The weekend ended in very entertaining fashion with Micro Footie and Langley United combining for six goals in a back and forth game. The first half saw MFA seize the initiative and surge into the lead. Fantastic goals by **Leo An** and leading scorer **Mawuena Mallet** had them ahead at the break, with **Minchan Jeon** mustering the only reply for Langley. **Tiegen Kyle** was bossing the game for MFA and the young guns seemed poised to take maximum points off of Langley for the second time this season. However, having been on a surge up the table throughout the second half of the campaign, Langley showed no interest in simply letting this one slip away. It was the proverbial tale of two halves, with the visitors regrouping at the interval and coming out strong after the break. Micro Footie struggled to cope with Langley’s assertiveness and this led to a pair of penalty kicks being awarded to United, much to the frustration of the home side. Captain and league MVP candidate **Scott Barling** made no mistake from the spot, and it was a similar story when veteran player-coach **Azad Palani** took charge from twelve yards out. With MFA unwinding, Langley struck the death blow via striker **Brody Thomas**. He rounded out a solid performance by adding his name to the scoresheet for the second straight week.

Here’s how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 16:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 FC Tigers Vancouver A	16	14	1	1	53	10	43	43
 Vancouver Whitecaps U19	16	7	4	5	34	20	14	25
 Langley United A	16	6	5	5	28	25	3	23
 Abbotsford United A	14	7	1	6	37	26	11	22
 FC Faly A	14	7	0	7	26	31	-5	21
 Surrey United SC A	15	5	1	9	29	38	-9	16
 Micro Footie Academy	15	4	1	10	22	45	-23	13
 FCT Academy	15	3	3	9	21	47	-26	12
 TWU Spartans A	6	2	3	1	12	10	2	9
 Surrey FC Royals	5	1	1	3	7	17	-10	4



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BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK



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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Ivan Mejia** from FC Tigers Vancouver. Mejia has been a reliable and consistent top performer for Tigers all season, and his play is a big part of why the FVSL new boys look poised to capture the Premier Division title at the first time of asking. Mejia continued his solid play this week, leading his team to victories against both Faly and SFC Royals, scoring in both games.

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



THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Fri 2/4/2022 8:45PM	Surrey United vs. Abbotsford United	Cloverdale Ath. #2
Sat 2/5/2022 6:00PM	FC Faly vs. Whitecaps U19	UBC NTC
Sat 2/5/2022 8:00PM	FCT Academy vs. FC Tigers Vancouver	Cloverdale Ath. #3
Wed 2/9/2022 7:10PM	Micro Footie Academy vs. Whitecaps U19	UBC NTC

League leaders FC Tigers could move within one win of the title this weekend if results go their way. Defending champions Abbotsford visit Surrey United on Friday and if Surrey can shake off their recent struggles and come away with a result, that would mean 49 points would be the most Abby could finish with this season. Currently, the maximum points for Whitecaps U19 is 46, and they will need wins against both FC Faly and Micro Footie this week to remain on that pace. If FC Tigers can pick up a win against FCT Academy Saturday night, they will move onto 46 and, given their head-to-head record against Abbotsford, one more win would see them crowned champions.

The Challenge Series

Surrey FC Royals 1-5 FC Tigers Vancouver – Thursday 9:00pm; Hjorth Turf #1

FC Tigers took another step towards claiming the title with an emphatic 5-1 win over SFC Royals in *Challenge Series* action on Thursday. Five different scorers got in on the act with Erik Edwardson and Ivan Mejia adding to the goals they scored at the weekend and Arjun Mann scoring to provide a cherry on top of a solid personal performance. Nima Moazeni Zadeh and Joseph Zupo were also on target for Tigers, while Mohamednur Mohamed Ibrahim managed the lone consolation for the Royals. Scot Seress played well for Surrey, despite the result and the Royals will be looking forward to a match up against fellow *Challenge Series* side TWU next week.

This week's fixtures:

Thu 2/10/2022 9:00PM	Surrey FC Royals vs. TWU Spartans	Towncentre - Cunnings
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