



Fraser Valley Soccer League



February 10, 2022

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

A surprise result to kick off the weekend that saw Surrey finally end their recent skid by beating defending champions Abbotsford set the tone for a great weekend of top flight action. That result for Surrey massively improved their chances of Provincial Cup qualification as the league announced this week that Whitecaps U19 would not be entering the post-season tournament. For Abbotsford, the loss all but ended their chances of retaining their title, as FC Tigers took care of business and can clinch the title with a win this coming weekend!

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

Surrey United 4-2 Abbotsford United – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic #2

If you did not know that Surrey United had been mired in a woeful run of form coming into this match, you certainly would not have been able to surmise on it based on their play on this night. The home side came flying out of the traps, taking the lead inside the opening minute via **Denis Ananga**. The hot start continued as Surrey raced through the gears scoring three times in just over fifteen minutes to begin the match win Ananga adding a second and **Prabdhheep Sandhu** getting in on the act as well. Abbotsford were clearly shellshocked, but did their best to steady the ship win **Conor Hildebrant** scoring his team leading eleventh and twelfth goals of the season as he looks to continue his pursuit for the Golden Boot. After all the excitement of the first half, the second half was noticeably tighter and, perhaps somewhat predictably given their recent struggles, Surrey sat in a defended deeper and deeper as the half went on. Abby huffed and puffed and did everything they could to find an equalizer, but it was to no avail, with the Surrey defense standing strong. In the final minutes, with Abbotsford committing numbers forward, **Mikael Mainella** got loose on the counterattack and measured a deft chip to beat the keeper and assure Surrey of victory on this night. It was a desperately needed result for the Surrey boys and suddenly, with Whitecaps opting not to participate, a valuable three points that puts them in the hunt for a Provincial Cup berth. Despite not factoring directly on the scoresheet, **Aryan Chauhan** was a force for the home side all night and a major part of Surrey's win. For Abbotsford, though, their dim hopes of retaining their title were all but extinguished with this loss as they will turn their focus to nailing down Provincial Cup qualification and trying to retain the Pakenham Cup they won back in 2019.

FC Faly 0-1 Whitecaps U19 – Saturday 6:00pm; UBC NTC

It was a very competitive and hard fought affair between two young and eager sides Saturday night at UBC. Faly FC had been neck and neck with Whitecaps in the battle for second place until recently. However, a run of just two wins over their last six matches has seen Faly stall out and be caught up by some of the veteran sides in the table. One of their wins, though, over this recent stretch was a 2-1 victory over the Whitecaps, and this match followed a similar pattern with chances coming at a premium. Nice build up play without much of an end product in front of goal was the theme of the first half. This was save for one very slick move by the 'Caps on twenty minutes where the burst down the right wing before a pair of smart one-touch passes sent **Tomas Pena** in on goal and he made absolutely no mistake with an assured finish to the far post. From there, the defenders took over for the Whitecaps with **Ben Alexander** martialing those in front of him to keep Faly at bay. It became a battle of tactics fought mostly in the midfield and it appeared that set pieces would provide the best avenue



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for Faly to find an equalizer. Despite a few half chances, including a late corner kick sequence that was crying out for a touch of class to finish off, no goal was forthcoming for Faly and they were forced to rue what might have been. Despite not being able to find a way to goal as a group, **Soumaila Savane** played well and gave his team a chance to win. For the Whitecaps, it is strong three points to pick up after a middling performance, but they will be focused on closing out their season on a high before trying to cap it off with a trophy in the form of the Soccer City Cup.

FCT Academy 1-7 FC Tigers Vancouver – Saturday 8:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #3

Following Abbotsford's loss on Friday, FC Tigers new they had a chance to move within one win of the title if they could pick up a win against bottom side FCT Academy. Despite the disparity in the table between the two teams, it was FCT making the brighter of the starts and the play of **Darius Matazed** had the FCT boys up and running early. They would be rewarded for their bright start too, as they pounced on an early Tigers mistake. Tigers keeper **Lukas Strauts** made a hash of his clearing attempt, and while the Tigers defenders were able to scramble back to prevent a goal, the best they could do was concede a penalty. **Jaekyeong Kwon** stepped to the spot calmly slotting home to score for the second match running and the third time in four weeks. There is no doubting the credentials Tigers have shown this season as champions in waiting, and they were unphased by going behind. They got back to work and within ten minutes were awarded a penalty of their own. Captain and leading scorer **Farivar Torabi** took responsibility and dispatched his kick with aplomb, going straight down the middle to level things up. There was certainly no love lost between the two sides, as the tackles were flying in, particularly from the FCT players who made it clear they had no plans to simply roll over for the powerhouse Tigers. For all their enthusiasm and effort, though, FCT still had to confront the vaunted Tigers offense, and the visitors showed their ruthlessness in front of goal when they took the lead before the half hour mark. Again the goalkeepers were far from coveting themselves in glory, as a muffed punched landed perfectly at the foot of **Erik Edwardson** and his long range effort was bang on the money to flip the score line on its head before half time. Just when FCT thought they were going to get into the break without further damage, Tigers struck once again in the final minute of the half. **Connor MacMillan** provided a great bit of industry down the left flank and his cross came all the way through to Edwardson who had the simplest of finishes for his second of the match. Just after the restart, a quickly taken free kick found MacMillan at the back post and he nodded home to extend the Tigers lead and seemingly take any of the remaining fight out of FCT. From here it became an academic exercise and the Tigers would go on to cruise to victory with **Filip Capek** getting in on the scoring act and Edwardson scoring again before Torabi banged in a further pair to round out his hatrick and help his bid for the Golden Boot.

Micro Footie Academy 0-3 Whitecaps U19 – Wednesday 7:10pm; UBC NTC

The Whitecaps continued their busy close to the season with a mid-week fixture against Micro Footie. The teams seemed to let the respective shackles off their players for this one, and this saw the tempo high and the match played at a blistering pace throughout. Both teams worked hard to create chances, with **Jorge Porter** spurring the MFA offense forward. **Harrison Gough** took the gloves for the 'Caps in this match and, just like his contemporary at the weekend, was able to turn away everything that the opposition could muster. Finishing proved to be the difference in what was otherwise a match of fine margins. **Clarke-Toscza Nikos** was on target for the Whitecaps with **Asvin Chauhan** also getting on the score sheet. There was also a goal for **Njei Akoum** who had a standout performance overall on the night. Just five games remain now for the 'Caps as they bring the curtain down on a strong first season!



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Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 17:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 FC Tigers Vancouver A	17	15	1	1	60	11	49	46
 Vancouver Whitecaps U19	18	9	4	5	38	20	18	31
 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	15	7	0	8	26	32	-6	21
 Surrey United SC A	15	5	1	9	29	38	-9	16
 Micro Footie Academy	16	4	1	11	22	48	-26	13
 TWU Spartans A	7	3	3	1	16	10	6	12
 FCT Academy	16	3	3	10	22	54	-32	12
 Surrey FC Royals	6	1	1	4	7	21	-14	4

BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK



This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Denis Ananga** from Surrey United. Ananga scored a crucial brace to help Surrey to a win over defending champions Abbotsford. Not only did the win deal a hammer blow to rival Abby's waning title hopes, it was also a huge boost to Surrey United in their quest to lock up a Provincial Cup berth. Surrey will look to Ananga for more goals the rest of the way as they try to guide themselves into the Provinces top amateur soccer showcase!

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



THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Sat 2/11/2022 8:45PM	Abbotsford United vs. FC Faly	Mouat Turf #3
Sat 2/11/2022 6:00PM	Whitecaps U19 vs. Langley United	UBC NTC
Sat 2/11/2022 8:00PM	FC Tigers Vancouver vs. FCT Academy	Cloverdale Ath. #3
Sun 2/12/2022 6:00PM	Micro Footie Academy vs. Surrey United	Hjorth Turf #1
Tue 2/15/2022 8:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. Surrey United	Mouat Turf #3



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It is a rematch this weekend between FCT Academy and FC Tigers and, this time, the title is on the line. FC Tigers have not relinquished their perch since first climbing atop it in October and they can capture the FVSL Premier title at the first time of asking with a win on Saturday night. That said, FCT certainly will not be rolling over in this one. Despite their meeting last time out ending up lopsided, there was a lot to like about the FCT performance until the tired late in the match. Elsewhere, after their big win last week against Abbotsford, Surrey United will be looking to maintain their focus on the teams above them, and not on those behind, including this week's opposition, Micro Footie. MFA are breathing down the necks of the Surrey boys with a potential Provincial Cup spot suddenly in the offing. Farther up the table, Langley visit Whitecaps and Abby host Faly as all four of those teams look to lock up top five finishes.

The Challenge Series

Surrey FC Royals 1-1 TWU Spartans – Thursday 9:00pm; Towncentre - Cunnings

The two *Challenge Series* teams, TWU Spartans and Surrey FC Royals, went head-to-head this week out in Coquitlam. In the end it ended up being a one sided affair with Trinity running out as clear winners on the night. Tristan Torresan and Michael Dale were on target with Charles Freddy Tchouya Nana remaining red hot and scoring for the third match running. Alex Cordeiro stopped everything that came his way to earn the clean sheet and Brandon Torresan also played well for TWU on the night. For the Royals, the only key offensive action they were able to muster on this night was an unfortunate own goal by Kieran Sheriff, although Manolo Aguilar did his best to engineer any type of positive outcome for Surrey on the night. They will look to regroup with only a handful of *Challenge Series* fixtures still to come!

This week's fixtures:

Wed 2/16/2022 7:30PM TWU Spartans vs. FCT Academy Trinity Western University

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