



Fraser Valley Soccer League



February 17, 2022

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

It is official! Congratulations to the new Fraser Valley Soccer League Premier Division Champions: FC Tigers Vancouver. An emphatic win put the title race to bed with five matches still to play for the FVSL new boys who have locked up a seeded position for the Provincial Cup and will now look to add further trophies to their cabinet the rest of the way this season. There is still plenty to play for, though, for the rest of the top-flight teams with the line between potential Provincial Cup qualification and possible relegation sitting at a mere four points. That is also the gap between fifth place, which has an assured spot in the marquee post-season tournament, and sixth place, which will have to wait on the outcome of the Pakenham cup before it can be known if that will be good enough to qualify.

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

Whitecaps U19 1-1 Langley United – Saturday 6:00pm; UBC NTC

With the Whitecaps focused on closing out their season ahead of their SC Cup Final showdown with newly crowned FVSL Premier Division Champions FC Tigers, the attention in this match shifted to Langley United and their push to lock up a Provincial Cup spot. The other two encounters this season between these two teams were tightly contested affairs that ended in draws. This match would be no different in terms of style and in terms of result as well. A resolute Langley defense anchored by keeper **Nuno Jesus** and defender **Devin Gilroy** were well organized throughout the first half and rebuffed the young 'Caps at every turn. At the other end, though, there was little for player-coach **Azad Palani** and the other Langley attackers to latch onto offensively. Early in the second half another Whitecaps attack looked have been well martialled by the United defense, but eventually the ball came across the top of the penalty area to **Alesandro Comita** who worked an opening and smashed a low drive towards goal that ultimately nestled into the far corner. It was somewhat of a bolt from the blue and the home side were jubilant in their celebrations. Naturally, after falling behind Langley began to up the pressure going forward. However, this left them vulnerable to the speed and decisiveness of the Whitecaps' counterattack. The match was on a knife's edge with the next goal looking crucial. It would be the visitors who found it as with a quarter of an hour left to play, **Ryan Schroeder** found a gap between the 'Caps defenders and nodded home a sumptuous cross to knot the match at one apiece. Some late set pieces for each team provided perhaps half chances to take all three points. A draw, though, was likely a fair result on the night.

Abbotsford United 4-1 FC Faly – Saturday 6:00pm; Mouat Turf #3

A further loss for defending champions Abbotsford United would see them cede their title to champions elect FC Tigers, without the FVSL new boys having to even take to the field a few hours later. While the Abby boys likely knew their title chances were effectively zero coming into this match, to their credit, they ensured Tigers would at least have to earn their FVSL crown with a win as United put in a vintage performance in beating FC Faly. Abbotsford raced out to an early three goal lead and was able to cruise from there. Golden Boot challenger **Conor Hildebrant** scored a brace to take him to 14 goals for the season in a scoring race that looks as though it will go to the wire. Abby stalwarts **Colton O'Neil** and **Parman Minhas** also scored before all was done and dusted. A late penalty kick for Faly broke up Abbotsford's bid for a clean sheet with **Ethan Vajda**, who had been Faly's top performer on the night,



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slotting home from twelve yards to give the visitors a consolation marker. It has hardly been the season Abby would have envisioned coming into it. However, they will hope performances like this can be a sign of things to come as they shift focus to confirming a Provincial Cup berth and defending their other trophy currently residing in their cabinet – the Pakenham Cup.

FC Tigers Vancouver 9-0 FCT Academy – Saturday 8:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #3

Presumably it was a matter of when, not if, FC Tigers would be crowned champions in the first season in the FVSL. That question was answered emphatically on Saturday night, and the answer was: “At the first time of asking.” It was more coronation than contest on Saturday at Cloverdale as the new champions strolled to victory, unlike the week previous when FCT Academy came at them with everything they could muster. This time around it was one way traffic from the off, with Tigers captain, and Golden Boot leader, **Farivar Torabi** leading the way offensively, scoring an impressive four goals, moving him onto 19 for the season. Arjun Mann also chipped in with a brace, while top performers **Erik Edwardson** and **Connor MacMillan** continued their impressive seasons by both adding further goal to their respective tallies. Youth callup **Jean Carlos Rodriguez** marked a milestone by scoring a senior goal, **Justyn Sandhu** kept the clean sheet, and it was all good vibes in the Tigers camp after this one. As has often been the case this season, despite not getting on the scoresheet himself, Ivan Mejia was once again the standout performer on the night for Tigers. On a night that belonged almost entirely to the opposition, **Yoonsung Hwang** put in a solid outing for FCT. Congratulations to the 2021/22 FVSL Premier Division Champions FC Tigers Vancouver and good luck representing the league in the BC Soccer Provincial Cup!

Micro Footie Academy 3-3 Surrey United – Sunday 6:00pm; Hjorth Turf #1

While many eyes were focused on the top of the table this weekend, and likely rightfully so, there was an incredibly important tilt near the bottom on Sunday night. With Whitecaps having declared they will not enter the Provincial Cup, there is the possibility that sixth place might earn a spot in that tournament. Surrey came into this match four points ahead of Micro Footie in sixth, with MFA also battling FCT to avoid possible relegation. This was a massively important match for both sides, and that was evident based on the performances of the players in what became a contender for match of the season. Surrey’s pacey winger **Josh Miles** has found space hard to come by at times this season, but he was at his scorching best on this night, and it led to him scoring a pair of goals for Surrey to give them control of this match. Burgeoning Micro Footie forward **Mawuena Mallet** has been a revelation for MFA this season, and he cancelled out those markers by Miles with a brace of his own. Easily Micro Footie’s MVP this season, those goals took Mallet’s tally to ten for the season. It was Surrey who were looking to steer home a crucial three points down the stretch in this one, though, after veteran midfielder **Raq Amijee** had also got his name on the scoresheet for United in the second half. However, this was a further twist in the tale, with **Leo An**, who was outstanding on the night for MFA, leading the comeback charge and, ultimately, scoring as well to earn the home side a share of the spoils.

Abbotsford United 5-2 Surrey United – Tuesday 8:00pm; Mouat Turf #3

After officially being dethroned as champions Saturday night, Abbotsford United took to the field mid-week and took out some pent-up frustration on Surrey United. Surrey could have used the points in their quest to sneak into the Provincial Cup, and they did get goals from Denis Ananga and Robert Troy Lydiate on the night, but it was not nearly enough. A motivated Abby side, who are still working towards mathematically ensuring themselves of a place in BC Soccer’s post-season affair, were too much on the



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night. Connor Hildebrant continued in his quest to reel in the Golden Boot, scoring a hattrick and moving onto 17 goals for the season, two back of the lead. There was also a brace for Ryan Liddiard as he scored his first goal of the season. The title may be gone, but Abbotsford looks to be rounding back into title winning form at the right time of the season with the chance to win trophies still very much a possibility.

Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 18:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 FC Tigers Vancouver A	18	16	1	1	69	11	58	49
 Vancouver Whitecaps U19	19	9	5	5	39	21	18	32
 Abbotsford United A	16	9	1	6	46	29	17	28
 Langley United A	17	6	6	5	29	26	3	24
 FC Faly A	16	7	0	9	27	36	-9	21
 Surrey United SC A	17	5	2	10	34	46	-12	17
 Micro Footie Academy	17	4	2	11	25	51	-26	14
 TWU Spartans A	8	3	4	1	17	11	6	13
 FCT Academy	18	3	4	11	23	64	-41	13
 Surrey FC Royals	6	1	1	4	7	21	-14	4

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Connor Hildebrant** from Abbotsford United. In a week that saw Hildebrant and his Abbotsford teammates deprived of the title, you would not have known it based on his play. Hildebrant lead his team to a pair of import victories in the pursuit of the Provincial Cup scoring a brace in a win over FC Faly at the weekend and then going one better in mid-week, netting a hattrick. If Hildebrant can maintain this for, it looks as though he will take the Golden Boot race right down to the wire!

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



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THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Fri 2/18/2022 8:30PM	Langley United vs. FC Faly	Willoughby Turf SW
Fri 2/18/2022 8:45PM	Surrey United vs. FC Tigers Vancouver	Cloverdale Ath. #2
Sat 2/19/2022 6:00PM	FCT Academy vs. Whitecaps FC U19	UBC NTC
Sun 2/20/2022 8:00PM	Micro Footie Academy vs. Abbotsford United	Hjorth Turf #1
Wed 2/23/2022 8:30PM	FCT Academy vs. Langley United	Willoughby Turf SW
Wed 2/23/2022 8:00PM	Surrey United vs. FC Faly	Cloverdale Ath. #2

A champion has been crowned and new kings FC Tigers will begin their victory lap with a date Friday night against Surrey United. Surrey is fighting hard to claw their way into the Provincial Cup picture, so they will know if they can pull any points off a Tigers team that has potentially turned its attention elsewhere it could prove vital come the final accounting. Whitecaps U19 are headed towards the conclusion of their season and will have a pair of matches this week in which they will hope to pick up points against strugglers FCT Academy and Surrey Royals as the 'Caps strive to lock up a second-place finish. Looking to track the youngsters down and continue their recent uptick in form, Abbotsford United will tangle with a Micro Footie side Sunday night that has given them problems once already this season. MFA are hoping they can catch Surrey for a potential Provincial Cup spot, although they will also be wary of FCT Academy behind them trying to pull them into a relegation position. MFA will have a chance at bonus points mid-week against Trinity, while FCT have a Wednesday night date against Langley. Langley take on FC Faly at the weekend in a battle of teams keen to avoid losing any ground in the battle for Provincial Cup places. Faly then visit Surrey mid-week in a match that could be huge in the Provincial Cup race depending on the results at the weekend!

The Challenge Series

TWU Spartans 1-1 FCT Academy – Thursday 9:00pm; Town Centre - Cunnings

In the penultimate match of the *Challenge Series* for TWU Spartans, they played out a thoroughly entertaining draw against FCT Academy. Gi Hyun Mun played well for FCT and Hyungkang Koo scored as FCT went in search of three valuable bonus points in their hunt to avoid any chance of relegation. It was not quite enough, however, as Trinity fought back via a goal from Marcus Tjernagel, although there were strong shouts for offside from the FCT camp. Kieran Eve put in a top performance for TWU as his mates will turn their attention now to their final outing of their FVSL campaign.

This week's fixtures:

Wed 2/23/2022 8:00PM	TWU Spartans vs. Micro Footie Academy	Mcleod Athletic Park
Thu 2/24/2022 9:00PM	Whitecaps FC U19 vs. Surrey FC Royals	Town Centre - Cunnings

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

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