



# Fraser Valley Soccer League



February 24, 2022

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

The race for first place might be done and dusted, but there is still plenty left to be determined in the remaining weeks of FVSL Premier Division action. An exciting weekend saw Langley and Abbotsford move closer to confirming their places in the BC Soccer Provincial Cup, with Langley then taking a further big step towards qualifying in mid-week play. Meanwhile, FC Faly help their odds of continuing their season with a by getting back into the win column mid-week, leaving Surrey set to fight it out with Micro Footie for a potential fifth spot in the tournament.

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

## **Langley United 1-0 FC Faly – Friday 8:30pm; Willoughby Turf SW**

It has been quite a recent run for Langley United, who came into the weekend on the back of an impressive seven match unbeaten run, albeit having only claimed maximum points from two of those matches. Meanwhile, Faly have been headed in the opposite direction over the past few weeks, losing four matches in a row. **Anastazi Nahayo**, who has been a standout for Faly all season, was buzzing throughout this match as Faly seemed to be in control for large portions of the game. It felt like a goal, or three, was an inevitability for the young Faly side, but it simply never materialized, despite their play on the night likely being deserving of it. Instead, it was a lesson in veteran composure and killer instinct as, after the final whistle, it was Langley who pocketed the points even though they were perhaps second best for some parts of the game. As usual, Langley were lead by their talismanic captain and centre midfielder **Scott Barling** who was a force in the middle of the park, winning numerous tackles and breaking up Faly attacks. At the back, another veteran presence in the form of goalkeeper **Nuno Jesus** was in form and able to rebuff any of the Faly attacks that did make their way through to him. In the end, the lone goal of the match was scored by perhaps the biggest veteran of them all: Langley player-coach **Azad Palani**. The win moves Langley six points clear of Faly and moves them to the brink of clinching a spot in the Provincial Cup.

## **Surrey United 1-5 FC Tigers Vancouver – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic #2**

Having clinched the FVSL Premier Division title a week earlier, there were plenty of eyes on FC Tigers to see how they would approach their remaining matches. It appeared from the off in this one that they were looking to maintain their impressive record, as they fielded a strong lineup and started on the front foot, controlling the opening half hour of play. However, a long ball forward was poorly handled by the Tigers at the back and, suddenly, **Monney Djeya** latched onto it and banged it home to give Surrey a surprise lead. Any points United could nab from this match would go a long way to helping their Provincial Cup qualification hopes and with a lead coming against the run of play, they looked to sit in a defend. However, their lead lasted less than five minutes after some casual breakout play saw them turn the ball over and within a few passes it would up on the foot of Golden Boot leader **Farivar Torabi** who converted from close range. Once they leveled things up, Tigers clearly smelled blood as they went all out on the offensive and within minutes earned a penalty that Torabi made no mistake in tucking away to put them in front. Things got worse for Surrey before the break as Torabi completed a first half hattrick, to put him on a division leading 22 goals for the season, turning home another cross from short range. To Surrey's credit, they did not throw in the towel and made a solid push, led from midfield as



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they so often are by **Junhyung Lee**, to get back into the match. It was a good contest, and United did create a handful of half chances, but they were unable to score. Instead, with just over ten minutes to play, **Erik Edwardson** put this one to bed with a lovely strike, set up by Torrabi, that flew into the far top corner from outside the area. Edwardson still had time to complete a brace as, just before full time, he snuck a low effort in at the far post to round off the evening.

## **FCT Academy 1-4 Whitecaps FC U19 – Saturday 6:00pm; UBC NTC**

Fighting to avoid relegation, FCT Academy travelled to UBC to face a Whitecaps team with their eyes on some exciting summer projects. Before they could get to that, however, there was a wet Saturday affair to get stuck into, and an FCT side that had been playing better of late, even if they perhaps did not have the results to accompany their uptick in performance. **Darius Motazed** was the driving force for FCT on this night and the Academy side had the better of the early exchanges. This was capped off by **Spencer Calderino** rising highest to nod home a corner kick just past the ten minute mark and give them the lead. Just before half time, though, the Whitecaps struck back after a quick transition left **Chris Album** with a chance to pick out a shot to the far corner. So it was a whole new game after the break and, this time, it was the 'Caps who seized the initiative. It took some time for the pressure to tell, but partway through the second half Album turned provider with a sublime through ball for **Eloliyon Mutumbo** who made no mistake with his finish to give the Whitecaps their first lead. With a quarter of an hour to play it was the exact same combination again connecting with Album leading a lightning quick counter attack before fizzing in a cross and Mutumbo just slipped in to beat the keeper to the ball and add the insurance marker. At the death there was still time for Album to cap off his impressive outing as he won and then assuredly converted an injury time penalty.

## **Micro Footie Academy 0-7 Abbotsford United – Sunday 6:00pm; Hjorth Turf #1**

Evidently Abbotsford United were in no mood to leave their business late on Sunday night as they came storming out of the blocks and wiped out Micro Footie in this one, essentially ending matters by halftime. It was a disappointing performance for MFA who, after some growing pains over the first few months of the season, had been largely competitive since November. **Leo An** was again a bright spot for the home side, but, in reality, there was not putting a gloss on this performance. Golden Boot contender **Connor Hilderbrant** once more led the way for Abbotsford, bossing the match and scoring a brace to take his tally to 19 for the season. Joining him with a pair of goals in this game was **Daniel Davidson**, who himself is quietly among the more prolific scorers in the division with eight goals to his name. Both **Connor O'Neil** and **Colton O'Neil** were on target as well, while MFA goalkeeper **Isaac Kong-Waller** capped off a rueful evening with an own goal. At the other end, **Mike Halidin** was relatively untroubled as he marched to a fourth shutout of the campaign.

## **Surrey United 1-3 FC Faly – Wednesday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Turf #2**

Just when it may have appeared as though we were through the worst of the Winter weather and Spring was on the horizon, Mother Nature bounced back up off the mat. Snow began falling just after halftime on Wednesday night and ultimately cut short a match with potential Provincial Cup qualification implications. FC Faly are the team Surrey United are trying to reel in for a guaranteed entry to the post-season tournament. Surrey veterans **Junhyung Lee** and **Raq Amijee** were clearly up for this one and were at the forefront of United's effort on this evening. Lee put in a top performance and Amijee got himself on the scoresheet to give Surrey a real chance in this match. However, Faly were clearly aware



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of the significance of the match as well and were motivated to end a five game losing skid that dated back to the last time these two sides clashed. It would be the young FVSL debutants who had wrestled control of the match when it had to be stopped with just under ten minutes left to play due to the accumulating snow. **Sairoob Sairoob** and **Athos Michellepis de Sequeira** ended their respective goal droughts, while **Wizaso Chavula** scored his first of the season. Additionally, team MVP candidate **Anastazi Nahayo**, who did not directly factor in the scoring on this night, turned in another sensational outing to put Faly in a position to claim a very valuable three points.

## **FCT Academy 0-1 Langley United – Wednesday 9:00pm; Willoughby Turf SW**

There was a similar snowy situation in Langley where United were looking to keep their strong run of results going against FCT Academy. A chilly, but precipitation free, first half saw FCT come flying out of the gate and perhaps catching Langley cold to start. FCT had clearly packed their shooting boots on this night and Langley keeper **Aiden McDonald** had to be sharp on more than just one occasion to keep FCT from opening the scoring. **Jaekyeong Kwon**, in particular, was buzzing about throughout a rapid opening half hour for FCT and was central to the buildup that saw the Academy side strike the post before the Langley defenders did just enough to scramble it away. There was also no shortage of animosity growing between these two teams throughout an opening period that saw few players, if any, pull out of a challenge. Langley, though, remained composed, and continued to defend well before looking to hit their opponents on the counter attack. A few half chances materialized and then, just before the half time whistle, veteran striker **John Craig** was the first to react to a juicy rebound and slot it home for the icebreaker, in more ways than one. The second half continued in much the same vein with FCT pressing and Langley having chances to score the all important insurance marker on the counterattack. **Brayden Gant** was influential for Langley all over the pitch on this night and seemingly involved in every key moment. While snow was beginning to steadily blanket the playing surface, the temperature remained hot on the field with player still fully committed to fight for every scrap of ground. Before the end FCT would smash and effort off the crossbar and have not one, but two, attempts cleared off the line. However, they would not get the goal their play likely deserved on the night and Langley pocketed all three points.



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Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 19:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 <b>FC Tigers Vancouver A</b>	19	17	1	1	74	12	62	52
 <b>Vancouver Whitecaps U19</b>	21	11	5	5	45	22	23	38
 <b>Abbotsford United A</b>	17	10	1	6	53	29	24	31
 <b>Langley United A</b>	19	8	6	5	31	26	5	30
 <b>FC Faly A</b>	18	8	0	10	30	38	-8	24
 <b>Surrey United SC A</b>	19	5	2	12	36	54	-18	17
 <b>Micro Footie Academy</b>	19	5	2	12	26	58	-32	17
 <b>TWU Spartans A</b>	9	3	4	2	17	12	5	13
 <b>FCT Academy</b>	20	3	4	13	24	69	-45	13
 <b>Surrey FC Royals</b>	7	1	1	5	7	23	-16	4

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This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Chirs Album** from Whitecaps FC U19. Album turned in a pair of dominating performances as the 'Caps picked up six point from a pair of solid wins. Album factored in all four goals his side scored in the two games, scoring four times and assisting on the other two goals. He and his teammates will hope this form can continue and can lead them to a Soccer City Cup Championship to cap of their first season in the FVSL.

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



## THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Fri 2/25/2022 8:30PM

**Langley United vs. Abbotsford United**

Willoughby Turf SW

Sat 2/26/2022 6:00PM

**Whitecaps FC U19 vs. Surrey United**

UBC NTC

Sat 2/26/2022 8:00PM

**FC Tigers Vancouver vs. Micro Footie Academy**

Cloverdale Ath. #3

Sun 2/27/2022 8:00PM

**FC Faly vs. FCT Academy**

Hjorth Turf #1

Tue 3/7/2022 8:00PM

**Abbotsford United vs. Langley United**

Mouat Turf #3



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Depending on what happens with the Faly against Surrey result that was incomplete on Wednesday night, Langley and Abbotsford may have already assured themselves of places in the Provincial Cup. Regardless, they are both on the brink, with one more win enough to solidify a spot. They will meet twice this week and, in addition to potentially cementing a place in the big tournament, the two teams will also be fighting for second place, as Langley will vault over Abbotsford if they can take the lion's share of the points. A loss for Surrey United to Whitecaps U19 would also send both Abbotsford and Langley to the Provincial Cup, meanwhile Whitecaps are in the mix for the battle for second place as well. Hoping to also take advantage of a potentially Surrey United slip up will be Micro Footie, as those two sides come into the weekend level on points and poised to battle it out for a potential trickle down Provincial Cup spot, should the winner of the Pakenham Cup have already qualified. It will be a stiff test for MFA though, as they take on champions FC Tigers. FC Faly are also hoping to confirm their place in the Provincials, and they would need a win over FCT Academy, combined with a Surrey loss to do so, although it all still depends on how the league handles the abandoned game from this week. FCT are not to be taken lightly, however. Despite losing both matches this past week, they likely deserved a better fate after taking the lead against Whitecaps, and somehow failing to score despite creating great chances against Langley. The Academy look like they are well up for the relegation battle still but they will need points in a hurry with only three matches left to play.

## *The Challenge Series*

### **TWU Spartans 0-1 Micro Footie Academy – Wednesday 8:00pm; MAP Oval**

Trinity Western closed out their *Challenge Series* campaign just before the snow could extend it any further as they welcomed Micro Footie to MAP in the earliest of the kickoffs on Wednesday night. Both sides appeared determined to put on a solid footballing display, with plenty of skill and slick passing on display from both teams. TWU had some great chances to score, but were turned aside by Issac Kong-Waller in the MFA goal. Tristan Torresan was a dominating force for Trinity on the night, but, frustratingly for him as his team, they could not find a way to goal. Instead, the lone goal of the match was scored by Micro's Tate Davidson early in the second half as his goal, along with the play of burgeoning striker Malwuena Mallet, led MFA to a bounce back mid-week win and three valuable bonus points to pull them level in the table with Surrey United.

### **Whitecaps FC U19 0-1 Surrey FC Royals – Thursday 9:00pm; Towncentre - Cunnings**

Picking up right where he left off at the weekend, the Chris Album show continued for Whitecaps U19 Thursday night against Surrey FC. Album scored a goal in either half and was once again the standout performer for his team as they picked up three bonus points to move closer to securing a second place finish in their inaugural FVSL Premier Division season. Max Anchor returned between the sticks for the 'Caps and repelled everything Surrey was able to muster on the evening to record a third clean sheet on the season. For the Royals, they played well enough, particularly Ayuob Yasin, but they were not able to find a way to score on this night.

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

**Wed 3/2/2022 8:00PM**

**Surrey United vs. Surrey FC Royals**

**Towncentre - Cunnings**



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