



Fraser Valley Soccer League



March 10, 2022

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

League action took a back seat over the weekend to cup play as the Pakenham Cup got underway with a number of compelling matchups. With a Provincial Cup spot up for grabs for the winning side, the Pakenham Cup has produced some fantastic storylines in its over 100 year history and it is setting up to be yet another intriguing tournament after the opening round. In addition to cup play, thanks to all the crazy winter weather the league has experienced this season there were also a pair of league games mid-week of some significance. Dethroned champions Abbotsford got one last kick at their usurpers, FC Tigers, while Surrey United and Micro Footie locked horns in an entertaining contest with impacts on both the Provincial Cup qualification race and the relegation battle.

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

PACKENHAM CUP

Tzeachten FC 1-4 FC Tigers Vancouver A – Friday 8:30pm; Tzeachten Turf

It was quite the test for Division 1 champions Tzeachten Friday night as they welcomed Premier Division champions FC Tigers Vancouver A to Chilliwack and Tzeachten turf. Tzeachten will be playing in the top flight next season and, on the balance of the action on this night, look as though they should be able to hold their own. The home side gave the visiting Tigers all they could handle, in a close fought, back and forth affair. Tzeachten goalkeeper, and Division 1 Golden Glove winner, **Jonathan Vugteveen** was in top form as he repelled just about everything Tigers could muster. The one blemish on his record through 90 minutes was a goal scored by **Race Williams** to give Tigers a lead that they clung to deep into the second half. However, as the clock moved into injury time, Tzeachten were rewarded for their hard work and belief as one of the stars of their Div. 1 title run, **Matthew Aikema**, put home the equalizer and this game was headed for an additional 30 minutes of extra time! After a wonderful performance, and one that would have earned them a point were this a league game, Tzeachten seemed to run out of gas through the extra period of play. Conversely, Tigers showed their pedigree by seeming to find another gear. **Nima Moazeni Zadeh** began growing his influence on the match for Tigers before leading scorer **Farivar Torabi** cashed in along with **Ali Zohar** and Williams, who potted his second of the night, as Tzeachten were forced to open up and chase the game once more. In the end, the score line was comfortable for Tigers, but they will know that their dream of the FVSL treble was almost undone by this upstart Tzeachten side who can go away knowing they were only the third team to deny Tigers a victory inside 90 minutes this season.

Surrey United SC A 6-0 FC Tigers Vancouver B – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic #2

While their first team was able to persevere and progress, there would be no such luck for Division 1 side FC Tigers Vancouver B. Tigers B were unable to emulate the performance of their division champions Tzeachten and were instead well beaten by a Surrey United side who were able to unleash some of their offensive weapons for the first time in what seems like an eternity. Chief among the attackers to breakout in this match was **Michael Ojo**, who put in a hattrick performance and had Surrey in control of this match from beginning to end. Ojo's goals were his first since October, while pacey winger **Josh Miles** scored for the first time in nearly a month. **Nick Fuzesi** was also on target in the win and hulking defender **Brandon Nair** got in on the act as well. Goalkeeper **Kevin Picard** earned the clean



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sheet in the win for a Surrey that still have plenty to play for this season and will be hoping to use this as a platform form which they can build over the final stretch. For Tigers B **Pedro Marinelli** stood out on the night and will be hoping that perhaps his performance may have done enough to get him a look at the next level.

Langley United A 2-4 Surrey FC Royals – Saturday 6:00pm; Willoughby Turf SW

In an appearance other than a mid-week game, *Challenge Series* participants Surrey Royals have thrown their hat in the ring for the Pakenham Cup, as well as the Provincial Cup berth that comes along with winning the trophy. So it was a very motivated Royals side that took to the field Friday night and perhaps Langley were not quite expecting this level of intensity from their opponents. In a lightning quick blitz, Surrey ran roughshod over Langley in the first half, scoring four times in twenty minutes. **Matteo Falcone** led the way with a brace, while **Ayman Sahmuddeen** and **Ayuob Yasin** also scored to put the visitors into a comfortable lead at the break. The veterans of Langley took the opportunity at halftime to regroup and refocus and came back with a much better, even dominant, second half performance. Led by jack-of-all-trades **Brayden Gant**, Langley probed for a way back into the match. Captain and midfield anchor **Scott Barling** scored to pull a goal back and player-coach **Azad Palani** also netted to give the home side hope for the most dramatic of comebacks. However, the Royals, behind a top performance from **Scott Seress**, bent, but did not break and, eventually, the clock ran out on Langley who were left to rue what might have been had they been able to start that match with the same conviction as they finished.

Langley United B 1-9 Abbotsford United – Saturday 8:00pm; Willoughby Turf SW

Things went no better for Langley's B side, who followed them out at Willoughby Saturday night. Current Pakenham holders Abbotsford, having already ceded their league title, were in no mood to hand over their lone remaining trophy at the first hurdle. **Darrell Hayes** did manage to score for Langley, and **Zach Nestman** put in a solid performance over the duration of the match, but that was about as good as it got for the home team on this night. FVSL Premier Division Golden Boot contender **Connor Hildebrant** scored twice, albeit these goals will not count towards his league tally, with **Ajaiveer Boparai** also recording a brace. Abbotsford stalwarts **Ben Shumbusho** and **Connor O'Neill** added their names to the scoresheet with a goal each, but the star of the evening was Daniel Davidson who potted a hat-trick to help Abby cruise into the next round as they look to keep the Pakenham Cup right where it is!

TWU Spartans B 1-2 FC Faly – Sunday 8:30pm; Yorkson Turf

Rounding out the field for the quarter finals, FC Faly narrowly avoided an upset at the hands of TWU Spartans B, who look set for a third place finish in Division 1. This was an extremely competitive match with both sides playing good football and chances coming at either end of the pitch. Striker **Alexander Roxburgh** was at the heart of matters for TWU all night and was responsible for much of what the home side created offensively. It was not Roxburgh himself, though, who would get the Spartans on the scoresheet in this one. Instead, that duty fell to **David Saavedra** who put home his eleventh goal of the season in all competitions. Opposite Roxburgh, Faly striker **Athos Michellepis de Sequeira** was acting as the talisman for his side, having scored in consecutive weeks coming into this match. He burgeoning work up front would lead to a third goal for him in as many outings, keeping this match well poised. The difference maker would be a goal by **Wonder Tarr** who gave Faly the edge they needed to survive a first round scare and advance to the quarter finals!



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LEAGUE PLAY

Abbotsford United 0-5 FC Tigers Vancouver – Tuesday 8:00pm; Mouat Turf #3

The third time was most definitely not the charm for Abbotsford as, frustratingly from their point of view, FC Tigers, the team that deposed them atop the FVSL, made it a perfect three for three in league play against United with a convincing mid-week win. The game began competitively, with both teams having chances, but the clinical finishing of Tigers made the difference. The resolve of Abbotsford faded throughout the game once the result became inevitable and that only opened up further attacking avenues for Tigers. Even more frustrating for Abbotsford, Tigers leading scorer **Farivar Torabi** struck for a hattrick in this match, moving him onto 29 goals for the season, eight ahead of Abby's **Connor Hidebrant** who was held off the scoresheet in this match. In fact, United were held off the scoresheet entirely as a team, which earned **Lukas Strauts** a ninth clean sheet of the season and clinched him the Golden Glove award. **Connor MacMillan** and **Danylo Smychenko** rounded out the scoring for Tigers on this night, while the performance of **Junwon Choi** was perhaps a small positive for Abby to take away.

Surrey United 7-3 Micro Footie Academy – Wednesday 9:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #2

After stretching their legs in the cup at the weekend, Surrey United were looking to take a massive step towards potential Provincial Cup qualification with a mid-week win against Micro Footie Academy. Additionally, the winner of this match would be mathematically safe from any threat of relegation. Both teams “went for it,” so to speak, and this made for an incredibly entertaining affair from a neutral point of view, although perhaps the coaches may not have been as keen. The teams would end up splitting ten goals between them, with Surrey United managing to carry forward their offensive momentum from their weekend success in the cup. **Josh Miles** scored a brace to give him goals in back to back matches, while the diminutive **Emanuel Ekeh** also scored twice in what was no doubt a welcome site for Surrey as it was his first time on the scoresheet since the beginning of October. Veteran midfielder **Juhnhyung Lee** scored and this is a just reward for a player who has spent much of the season constantly putting in top performances for United, irrespective of the circumstances. **Prabhdeep Sandhu** and **Aryan Chauhan** both potted goals to make it a lucky seven for Surrey and they needed the offense as well, given that Micro Footie put up a valiant effort. **Sam Tabrizi** was excellent for MFA in this match, and his strong performance was rewarded with a goal. **Devito Romero** scored for Micro as well to keep things interesting and United defender **Brandon Nair**, having been on target at the right end of the field from a Surrey perspective at the weekend, was unfortunate enough to score into his own net this time around. In the end, though, Surrey came out on the right end of this shootout at the “Cloverdale Corral” and ensured their season would not end with a shock relegation. Furthermore, they put themselves in pole position to claim any potential trickledown Provincial Cup berth, should the winner of the Pakenham Cup have already qualified, as they now sit three points up on MFA and own the tiebreaker.



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Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 21:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 FC Tigers Vancouver A	21	19	1	1	83	13	70	58
 Vancouver Whitecaps U19	22	12	5	5	46	22	24	41
 Abbotsford United A	20	12	1	7	65	35	30	37
 Langley United A	21	8	6	7	32	38	-6	30
 FC Faly A	19	9	0	10	33	40	-7	27
 Surrey United SC A	22	6	2	14	43	62	-19	20
 Micro Footie Academy	21	5	2	14	30	69	-39	17
 TWU Spartans A	9	3	4	2	17	12	5	13
 FCT Academy	21	3	4	14	26	72	-46	13
 Surrey FC Royals	8	2	1	5	11	23	-12	7

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Walnut Grove



This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Jonathan Vugteveen** from Tzeachten FC. Vugteveen's heroic goaltender performance in his side's Pakenham Cup match against FVSL Premier Champions FC Tigers allowed him and his Division 1 teammates to stun the favourites with a late goal and earn a 1-1 draw at full time. Vugteveen and Tzeachten are only the third team this season to prevent powerhouse FC Tigers from claiming a win inside 90 minutes and while Tzeachten were unable to complete the upset in extra time, the performance bodes well for their inclusion in the Premier Division next season.

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





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PAKENHAM CUP QUARTER FINAL SCHEDULE:

Sat 3/12/2022 6:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. Surrey United SC A	Mouat Turf #3
Sat 3/12/2022 9:00PM	FC Tigers Vancouver vs. Micro Footie Academy	Cloverdale Ath. #3
Sat 3/12/2022 9:00PM	FCT Academy vs. FC Faly	Cloverdale Ath. #1
Sun 3/13/2022 2:00PM	Surrey FC Royals vs. Surrey United SC B	Towncentre - Cunnings

THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Tue 3/8/2022 8:00PM	Abbotsford United vs. Micro Footie Academy	Mouat Turf #3
Wed 3/9/2022 8:45PM	Surrey United vs. Whitecaps FC U19	Cloverdale Ath. #2

The Pakenham Cup continues this weekend and it appears that holders Abbotsford and Premier Division Champions FC Tigers are on a collision course for the semi-finals. However, while those sides will be favourites in their matches this weekend, against Surrey United SC A and Micro Footie Academy respectively, their opponents will no doubt be eyeing the upset. Particularly Surrey, who head to Abbotsford full of confidence after a pair of emphatic wins in the past week that saw them score 13 goals. On the other side of the draw, things look to be fairly wide open. *Challenge Series* side Surrey Royals look to build on their previous defeat of Langley United when they host the lone remaining Division 1 side in the competition, Surrey United SC B. Meanwhile, relegation threatened FCT Academy face an FC Faly side who survived a first round scare against lower division opposition. In league play mid-week, Abby continue their quest for second place, and leading scorer Connor Hildebrant will try to make up some ground in the Golden Boot race when they host Micro Footie who are looking for the points they need to ensure another season in the top flight. Elsewhere, Surrey United and Whitecaps U19 will bring their respective league campaigns to a close.

The Challenge Series

Remaining fixtures:

Thu 3/24/2022 8:30PM	Surrey FC Royals vs. FC Faly	Towncentre - Cunnings
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