March 16, 2022

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

It was a very "take care of business" type of week for both teams in Pakenham Cup action, as well as in league play. The marathon that is the FVSL season is reaching its peak, and we know have an intriguing final four in the cup, with Provincial Cup ramifications hanging in the balance thanks to the performance of Surrey FC Royals. Meanwhile, in league results the first two teams are over the finish line as Whitecaps and Surrey United completed their respective league campaigns. Surrey will now wait to see whether or not their performance is enough to earn them a spot in the Provincial Cup, although there hopes were helped by the other league match during the week as Mirco Footie came up empty against Abbotsford as Abby look to catch the Whitecaps for second place.

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

PACKENHAM CUP QUARTER FINALS

Abbotsford United 11-0 Surrey United SC A – Saturday 6:00pm; Mouat Turf #3

The recent uptick in form experienced by Surrey United was abruptly halted when they ran head on into a motivated Abbotsford side on a quest to retain the Pakenham Cup crown. One-sided might be the most generous way to sum up the performance from a Surrey perspective, as they were beyond well beaten on this night. A hardworking effort from **David Suh** was about all they had to show for their trip to Mouat, as Abby keeper **Mike Haladin** cruised to a clean sheet. Offensively for Abbotsford a pair of hattricks from **Daniel Davidson** and **Colton O'Neill** inflicted the heaviest damage, while leading scorer **Connor Hildebrant** was force to settle for just a brace on the night. Connor O'Neil was not able to quite keep up with the exploits of brother Colton, but did manage to a register a goal himself. Rounding out the scoring on the night were **Ben Shumbusho** and **Tyson Hunter**. Abbotsford will hope this performance is a sign of things to come as they look to return to the form that saw them hoist the Pakenham Cup last time it was handed out in 2019 and then carry that level into Provincial Cup play.

FC Tigers Vancouver 8-1 Micro Footie Academy – Saturday 9:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #3

Having already won the league title by some margin, FC Tigers made it abundantly clear win their quarter final win that they intend to add to their trophy cabinet as much silverware as possible in this their inaugural FVSL season. It took twenty minutes, but once **Erik Edwardson** nodded home a corner kick to give the home side the lead, they put their foot on the gas. Within ten minutes they had doubled their advantage, with leading scorer **Farivar Torabi** confidently smashing home a cross that he had latched onto at the back post. A wicked shot from **Nima Zadeh** then overpowered the Micro Footie keeper before **Danylo Smychenko** nodded home the second phase of a free kick to give Tigers a comfortable first half lead. After the break, it again took Tigers awhile to get going, but just after the hour mark Edwardson put home his second of the match which was followed in quick succession by a goal from **Arjun Mann** who was first to react to poke home his own rebound. **Pierce Moore** would smartly tuck home a nice response for Micro Footie and he, along side the play of **Jorge Porter**, did give MFA a few positives to take away from this match. However, overall it was all Tigers on this night and there was still time for a few more goals to round out their performance. **Race Williams** slipped through and stayed onside to add his name to the scoresheet and then Torabi capped off the performance with a well taken second goal to complete his brace and set Tigers on their way to the semi finals.



FCT Academy 1-2 FC Faly – Saturday 9:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #1

While the other three quarter finals ended up with a clear winner, for much of Saturday night this match hung in the balance. FC Faly, having all but secured a place in the Provincial Cup during their debut FVSL campaign, were in search of a spot in the Pakenham semi finals and a chance to earn a shot at lifting the trophy. Meanwhile, it has been somewhat of a tumultuous season for FCT Academy, but after improved performances in the league as of late, FCT came into this match thinking that a cup run might well be on the menu and act as a tonic for what ails them. Alas, for the Academy side, this match followed a similar trajectory to that of their recent league outings in that they were right in the thick of things with a chance, but, ultimately, came out on the losing end. **Amir Mahdi Ghasemi** scored for FCT, but it was not enough, as goals from **Declan Fremont** and **Sairoob Sairoob** carried Faly to the win and saw them advance. The performance by Fremont was of particular quality for the visitors on this night and he took his goal with particular aplomb. For FCT, as has often been the case this year, **Adam Kavanagh** was the central figure, but he and his teammates were left frustrated once more as they return to their battle to try and pull off the great escape and avoid relegation.

Surrey FC Royals 8-0 Surrey United SC B - Sunday 2:00pm; Towncentre Cunnings Turf

As the lone remaining Division 1 side in the competition, Surrey United SC B were always going to be underdogs coming into their quarter final against Surrey FC Royals. **Mohamed Koroma** put in a top shift for United and looked like he well might have something to offer at the next level. Unfortunately for him and his teammates, he was just about the lone bright spot as it was a long afternoon for the visitors. The Royals were at their best in this one, showing a high degree of skill and putting forth a team effort that saw eight different players get on the scoresheet while **Justin Bint** recorded the shutout. The standout performer was **Manolo Aguilar**, who scored himself and was central to the offense for his teammates as well. Four players scored their first goals of the season in **Scott Seress** and **Kieran Sheriff** as well as **Duncan Bates** and **Aniel Athwal**. Leading scorer **Ayman Sahmuddeen** added to his tally, taking him to five goals in all competitions this season, with **Leman Tavares** and **Maslah Hassan Faran** rounding out the scorers to book the Royals a spot in the semifinals and a chance to play for a Provincial Cup spot.

LEAGUE PLAY

Abbotsford United 3-1 Micro Footie Academy – Tuesday 8:00pm; Mouat Turf #3

The battle for second place continued in mid-week with both Abbotsford, who sit third, and Whitecaps, who occupy second, in action. Abby followed up a strong cup performance at the weekend with a tidy victory over Micro Footie Academy that also leaves the relegation race still in full swing. MFA need one more win to ensure that they are uncatchable and safe for another season and **Tate Davidson** put in a solid effort in order to find them those remaining points. **Devito Romero** scored for MFA and they put forward a much better outing than they had at the weekend in cup play, but they still fell short against an Abbotsford side that look to be hitting top form at the right time of the year. After playing hattrick hero at the weekend, **Colton O'Neil** was again on target in this match, as was **Daniel Davidson** who also followed up his three goal outing at the weekend with a marker in this match. Youth call up **Tobias Regener** found his way onto the scoresheet, registering a senior goal to round out the scoring at putting Abbotsford in position to determine their own fate when it comes to finishing second place.



Surrey United 0-8 Vancouver Whitecaps U19 - Wednesday 9:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #2

After somewhat of a late season resurgence, the air looks to have come out of Surrey United as they very much limped to the finish line to complete their league schedule. After a rather ignominious exit from the cup at the weekend, Surrey were played off the park in their final league outing of the season, with a strong effort from **Michael Ojo** the only saving grace on an otherwise forgettable evening. Surrey will now have to wait and see if the effort they put forth this season will earn them a spot in the Provincial Cup tournament. On the other hand, Whitecaps U19 capped off a rather successful debut season in the FVSL with a strong win. Leading scorer **Chris Album** banged in a hattrick to take him to an impressive 14 league goals for the year. **Tomas Pena** concluded his strong campaign with another goal, and it was a similar story for **Alesandro Comita**. There were also goals from **Eloliyon Mutumbo** and **Haris Hussaini**, while Surrey's **Jared Crane** had the unfortunate experience of adding an own goal to the tally, as Whitecaps signed off in style with **Marshall Herald** recording the clean sheet. The youngsters will look ahead to trying to end the season altogether by lifting the Soccer City Cup when they play in the final against powerhouse FC Tigers.

Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 22:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
FC Tigers Vancouver A	21	19	1	1	83	13	70	58
Wancouver Whitecaps U19	23	13	5	5	54	22	32	44
& Abbotsford United A	21	13	1	7	68	36	32	40
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	23	6	2	15	43	70	-27	20
Micro Footie Academy	22	5	2	15	31	72	-41	17
TWU Spartans A	9	3	4	2	17	12	5	13
FCTIGERS FCT Academy	21	3	4	14	26	72	-46	13
Surrey FC Royals	8	2	1	5	11	23	-12	7



BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK









This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Colton O'Neil** from Abbotsford United. It was a big week offensively for O'Neil as he was clattering in the goals to go along with his standard high level of performance. While Abbotsford have been unable to maintain their status as league champions this season, they are looking to retain their Pakenham Cup crown and O'Neil helped greatly in that regard by contributing a hattrick in their quarterfinal win. He then followed that up with a further goal in their mid-week league fixture that has United within striking distance of second place.

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



PAKENHAM CUP SEMI FINAL SCHEDULE:

THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

The Pakenham Cup semi finals take centre stage with a pair of mouthwatering matchups on tap. Surrey Royals have put together a strong cup run and with look to ruin the bid of FC Tigers to claim every trophy on offer this season by tripping them up before they can make the final. There is added incentive for the Royals as well given that a spot in the final would afford them the opportunity to try and claim a place in the Provincial Cup. Meanwhile, debutants FC Faly have their eyes on lifting a trophy in their inaugural FVSL season, but to do that they will need to knock off the holders Abbotsford who look rather motived to keep the Pakenham Cup exactly where it is, nestled safely in their trophy cabinet. In league action, the relegation battle may well be settled when Abby host FCT Academy as FCT must win to avoid the trapdoor. Elsewhere Langley will host FC Tigers in the penultimate league match for both sides.

The Challenge Series

Remaining fixtures:

Thu 3/31/2022 8:30PM Surrey FC Royals vs. FC Faly Towncentre - Cunnings



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