



Fraser Valley Soccer League



November 17, 2021

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

After nearly two months of action, everyone has finally played every one else in the FVSL Premier Division. Of course, this past weekend was centred around the current top two, Abbotsford and FC Tigers, finally meeting for the first time this season in any competition. That game lived up to the hype and has made things at the top of the table very interesting given that both Whitecaps U19 and Faly, who both came into the weekend in the top four, also picked up wins.

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

Surrey United 1-2 FC Faly – Friday 8:45pm; Cloverdale Athletic #2

The weekend began with a spirited affair between Surrey United and Faly as the two teams came into the match locked together in the middle of the table on nine points each. After a rather placid first three quarters of the match, the game threatened to boil over in the final act. Youth call up **Elliot Riches** was fantastic for Faly again on the evening and scored another goal in his burgeoning adult career. That tally, combined with a goal from **Wonder Tarr** was enough to make the difference for Faly as they claimed a massive three points. Despite not getting onto the scoresheet, **Sairoob Sairoob** was once again a driving force for Faly. On the Surrey side of the ledger, goalkeeper **Kevin Picard** did what he could to try and steal at least a point for his team. However, a lone goal from **Aryan Chauhan** was not enough to earn the home side anything on this night.

Abbotsford United 1-3 FC Tigers Vancouver – Saturday 6pm; Mouat Turf #3

On Saturday, the highly anticipated clash between Abbotsford and FC Tigers went down at Mouat. The teams entered the weekend deadlocked atop the table, having each suffered only a single loss through the first six weeks of the campaign. Both teams were up for this match and full of early running. Despite all the star power on both sides of the ball, it was a mistake that led to the opening goal just over ten minutes into the game. After some great work to dig the ball out and fight down the left wing, a cross into the Abbotsford penalty area was unfortunately headed into his own goal by **Tammer Byrne**. The teams exchanged chances over the next twenty minutes with the defenses needing to be sharp to maintain the status quo. There was good energy to this match, much to the delight of the strong crowd in attendance, despite the difficult weather conditions. On the half hour mark, a piece of individual skill by **Ivan Mejia** doubled the Tigers lead as he juked and jived inside the box to create a gap before slotting home his finish. In the second half, Tigers looked to kill the game off by maintaining possession and smothering Abbotsford. It worked well until part way through the half when Abby were able to work a move down the left wing and send a cross to a wide open **Connor Hildebrant**. The leagues leading goal scorer showed great composure to beat a recovering defender and slot the ball into the far side netting. It was game on for the final quarter of the match and Abbotsford were immediately onto the front foot in search of the equalizer. They committed several men forward and created a few half chances, but with less than ten minutes on the clock they were struck by a classic counterattacking move from Tigers. The ball was crossed to Mejia who walked around the keeper and salted this game away. Round one of this match went to the Tigers, but surely Abby are already keen for the rematch. **Colton O'Neil** played well for the home side in the defeat and will no doubt be rallying his side to push to get back atop the table as soon as possible!



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FCT Academy 0-2 Langley United – Saturday 8:00pm; Cloverdale Athletic #3

After a dreadful start to the campaign, Langley have settled in and found their groove over the last month or so. On Saturday they headed to Cloverdale to take on a FCT Academy side that was sitting just one point back of them in the standings but had conceded more than double as many goals. Langley issued an early statement of intent when **John Craig** pivoted and unleashed a shot that cannoned back off the bar inside ten minutes. It took until the second half to find the breakthrough, but eventually goals for Langley's **Brayden Gant**, who is starting to round into top form, and veteran player-coach **Azad Palani** secured the points for Langley. Goalkeeper **Nuno Jesus** did not have too much to do on the night but was solid when called upon and earned his first clean sheet of the season. Defender Steve Gaffney also put in a solid shift in the win for Langley as they vaulted up the table following this result. Despite the loss, **Hajir Rashid Abdi** was a bright spot for FCT and will hope to carry that form forward in the coming weeks.

Micro Footie Academy 1-5 Vancouver Whitecaps FC U19 – Sunday 6pm; Hjorth Turf #1

Rounding out the weekend, Micro Footie welcomed Whitecaps U19 to Hjorth on Sunday night. It was mostly one way traffic in this match as **Henrique Claros** had Whitecaps in front inside ten minutes. The visitors looked to have doubled their lead within moments of the restart, but were denied by the offside flag. They did find a second before the half hour mark, though, as **Brennen Fuerst** slotted to make it a two-goal advantage. Just before half time it looked to be game on when MFA pulled one back. A freekick delivered by **Rohin Kapila** took a wicked deflection and nestled into the back of the net to half the deficit. Whitecaps, however, had an instant reply, with **Luke Normann** muscling his way onto a loose ball to restore the cushion for the visitors before the break. When play resumed **Chris Album** continued his hot form for the 'Caps, nodding home another goal. To their credit, despite being well behind, MFA continued to try and play and create chances. **Jorge Porter** had a strong performance for Micro Footie and he and his teammates had a few looks to cut into the Whitecaps lead. MFA even a goal that was ruled out for offside, but they simply could not find a way to goal on a frustrating evening. Before all was said and done there was still time for Album to pot a second goal and take his tally to two on the night and five on the season. While he did not factor directly in the scoring, **Thierno Bah** had a top outing for Whitecaps as they continue their march towards title contention.



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Here's how the FVSL Premier Table looks after Week 7:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
 FC Tigers Vancouver A	7	6	0	1	28	6	22	18
 Abbotsford United A	7	5	0	2	25	11	14	15
 Vancouver Whitecaps U19	7	4	1	2	17	11	6	13
 FC Faly A	7	4	0	3	14	14	0	12
 Surrey United SC A	8	3	1	4	16	19	-3	10
 Langley United A	7	2	1	4	10	14	-4	7
 Micro Footie Academy	7	2	0	5	11	23	-12	6
 FCT Academy	7	1	0	6	9	32	-23	3
 TWU Spartans A	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1

BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK



This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week is **Ivan Mejia** from FC Tigers Vancouver. In the biggest game of the season, and on the road in hostile territory, Mejia stepped up and delivered the goods for Tigers in their big win over Abbotsford. Mejia scored a pair of crucial goals to secure the three points that lifted Tigers alone into first place for the first time this year.

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



THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Fri 11/19/2021 8:45PM

POSTPONED

Sat 11/20/2021 8:00PM

Sun 11/21/2021 6:00PM

Surrey United vs. Langley United

Abbotsford United vs. FCT Academy

FC Tigers Vancouver vs. Whitecaps U19

Micro Footie Academy vs. FC Faly

Cloverdale Ath. #2

Mouat Turf #3

Cloverdale Ath. #3

Hjorth Turf #1



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The FVSL Premier Division has gone once through the order and now it is time for the first set of reverse fixtures. One rematch that will have to wait is FCT's trip to Abbotsford which is on hold following the devastating flooding experienced in the Eastern Fraser Valley. The FVSL wants all those affected by these events to know that we are with you as you begin the recovery, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back onto the pitch in due course. Of the games that are going ahead, there is a tantalizing match up between the now first place FC Tigers Vancouver and a surging Whitecaps U19 side. The 'Caps are playing great football at the minute and can close the gap on Tigers to just two points with a win. Another tasty offering is the latest chapter in one of the best football rivalries in all of Canada between Surrey United and Langley United. The teams have met twice already this season and it has been Surrey who have emerged with a pair of narrow victories. The current form table has the sides headed in opposite directions at the moment, however, with Langley no doubt liking their chances in this encounter. Elsewhere, both Micro Footie and FC Faly have had a few months of top-flight football under their belts now and each will be hopeful of walking away with all three points on Sunday night at Hjorth Road.

TWU Spartans Challenge Fixture

TWU Spartans 2-2 Surrey United – Tuesday 7:30pm; Trinity Western University

The TWU Challenge series kicked off with Surrey United visiting campus and locking horns with a TWU side hungry to get back into action following the USports season. Perhaps there was a bit of rust for Trinity to shake off, though, as Surrey, and in particular **Mikael Mainella**, were all over them in the first half. Mainella scored a brace and could have had a hattrick before the interval, only to see his low curling shot hit the post and go wide. A goal by **Freddy Tchouya** ensured that TWU remained within touching distance, and this proved crucial when **Noah Kroeker**, who was the best of the bunch for Trinity on this night, nabbed a last gasp equalizer in the fifth minute of stoppage time to secure a draw. Surrey will be frustrated to only earn a single bonus point after a strong performance with **Jackson Cowx** playing well for them on the night.

This week's fixture:

Wed 11/24/2021 7:30PM

TWU Spartans vs. FC Tigers Vancouver Trinity Western University

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