



Fraser Valley Soccer League



September 30, 2021

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

The Soccer City Cup group stage drew to a close this weekend as the semi-final match ups were confirmed after a host of enthralling matches. Cup dreams will be pushed to the back burner for now though, as next weekend sees the commencement of League play in the FVSL's top flight. Before we get there, however, lets take a look back at just how the SC Cup group stage finished up.

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

Langley United 5-2 Micro Footie Academy – Friday 8:30pm; Willoughby Turf SW

In order to have any hope of advancing to the knockout phase of the Soccer City Cup, FVSL newcomers Mirco Footie Academy needed a big win over league veteran Langley United and then some help from Abbotsford on Saturday. Langley had no intention of obliging MFA at all, though, especially after feeling hard done by in consecutive losses to Surrey and Abbotsford to begin their season. It was not to be for MFA on this night, though, as Langley were simply too hungry. **Giancarlo Torres** had Langley in front inside the opening minutes when he slipped unmarked behind the defense and calmly finished past the keeper. Torres then quickly doubled his and Langley's tally when United pounced on an MFA turnover and he was clinical with his finish. MFA were then cruelly punished by an own goal via **Fergus Linley-Mota** after it was Torres once more doing the hard work to get in down the left. MFA certainly were not going to be pushovers, despite the gap in experience between the sides, and **Josh Ranjbar** did his best to help them to that big win they needed with a top performance. He had Micro on the board just before half time with a well struck shot from the right wing. Then, after the break, the Langley defenders could not cope with Ranjbar's pace and he earned a penalty before calmly converting it to bring MFA within a goal. Suddenly it was game back on, but Langley had no intentions of letting this one slip away. Straight from the restart they went on the attack and earned a penalty of their own after a handball decision went against MFA. **Scott Barling** stepped up on his return from injury and blasted a shot down the middle to restore Langley's cushion. That goal seemed to kill MFA's spirit and even the ultimate veteran himself, Langley player-coach **Azad Palani** got in on the goal scoring act before the end, calmly tucking away his finish to the far corner after a close offside decision saw him get in behind the defenders. The loss snuffed out MFA already long odds to advance, but Langley will surely be bolstered by their win and looking forward to the beginning of league play.

Vancouver Whitecaps FC U19 1-4 FC Tigers Vancouver – Saturday 6pm; UBC NTC Turf

This was quite possibly the match that FVSL onlookers most wanted to see. Both Whitecaps and Tigers are widely expected to contend for every trophy on offer this year and after two weeks dancing around each other, the two went head-to-head to decide the winner of Group A. After two weeks of quick starts of their own, it was FC Tigers who experienced what it was like to be pegged back early. Some tidy buildup play through the midfield was finished off with a goal by the Whitecaps **Tomas Pena**. Pena continued his fantastic start to the season with yet another goal to get his side up and running. Unfortunately for Pena and the Caps, it was all downhill from there. Goals by **Ivan Mejia** and **Farivar Torabi** would turn the match around for Tigers and give them the lead. From there, Torabi put on a show down the stretch scoring a lovely second goal, twisting and turning to create an opening for his shot before rounding off his hat-trick late on. The only downside for Torabi and Tigers was that he appeared to injure himself celebrating his third goal. Tigers certainly will not want to lose their talisman with league play just around the corner, so they will hope for good news on that front. For the Caps,



Fraser Valley Soccer League



despite the loss, **Rohin Kapila** had a strong outing. The good news for the youngsters is that they will not have to wait long at all to try and get their revenge as Tigers are their Week 1 opponent in league play!

Abbotsford United 3-3 Surrey United SC – Saturday 6pm; Mouat Turf #3

The result Friday night in Langley secured Surrey their semi-final spot prior to this match kicking off. However, Surrey did still have a chance to knock first place from Abbotsford with a win. It was another pair of FVSL veteran sides squaring off in this one and it produced the sort of top contest that the league has become known for over the seasons. Surrey looked motivated in this one and were on the front foot to begin the match. Aryan Chauhan engineered a nice ball to Emmanuel Ekeh who nodded home Surrey's opener. Chauhan would himself get in on the scoring act in this game, with Ekeh also adding a second to his tally. Kevin Picard was crucial in goal for Surrey as they fought to hang onto their lead and claim top spot in the Group B standings. Ultimately, injuries told the story for Surrey as losing a pair of defenders in Brandon Nair and Dante Bandiera was too much for them to overcome. A brace by Abby's Dan Davidson and a further goal from Connor Hildebrandt meant that the points would be shared from this match and that Abbotsford would win the Group.

FC Faly 5-1 Premier FC – Sunday 6pm; Hjorth Turf #1

It was a dead rubber to round out group play in Group A, with both Faly and Premier having been eliminated from semi-final contention. You may not have known that, however, to watch this match as it was a sharp contest between two sides looking to head into the league season on a positive note. It was a lively and open first half with plenty of action around the goal mouths and lots of chances each way. Ultimately it would be Faly who pulled away and put the game out of sight in the second half to secure their first FVSL win. Youth callup **Elliott Riches** was the star of the match, netting a pair of goals to secure the victory. **Ibrahima Basse**, who may well be considered a veteran on this young Faly side, also scored with **Anastazi Nahayo** and **Wonder Tarr** also finding the back of the net. **Pedro Marinelli** had the lone reply for Premier but **Diego Garcia-Leal** put in a solid shift and Premier will be hoping to build on the positives from this match when the curtain raises on their FVSL league season next week.

Here's how the SC Cup Standings look after the conclusion of the Group Stage:

SOCCER CITY PREMIER LEAGUE CUP							
Group A				Group B			
Team	Record	Points	GD	Team	Record	Points	GD
FC Tigers Vancouver	3-0-0	9	12	Abbotsford United	2-1-0	7	9
Whitecaps FC U19	2-0-1	6	10	Surrey United SC	1-2-0	5	1
FC Faly	1-0-2	3	-4	Langley United	1-0-2	3	-1
Premier Academy	0-0-3	0	-18	Micro Footie Academy	0-1-2	1	-9



Fraser Valley Soccer League



BROWNS SOCIAL HOUSE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

BROWNS SOCIALHOUSE
restaurant . bar . socialize

A Proud
sponsor of



Brentwood
Newport Village
Kitsilano
Walnut Grove



This week's Brown's Social House Player of the Week will return when league play begins!



THIS WEEK'S FVSL PREMIER SCHEDULE:

Fri 10/01/2021 8:30PM	Langley United vs. Surrey United SC	Willoughby Turf SW
Sat 10/02/2021 6:00PM	Whitecaps FC U19 vs. FC Tigers Vancouver	UBC NTC Turf
Sat 10/02/2021 6:00PM	Premier FC vs. Abbotsford United	Cloverdale Ath #3
Sun 10/03/2021 6:00PM	FC Faly vs. Micro Footie Academy	Hjorth Turf #1

After an appetite whetting Soccer City Cup group stage, it is time for Week 1 of the FVSL Premier season! Straight away there are some mouthwatering matchups. After locking horns just two weeks ago in one of the matches of the season so far, Langley United once again hosts Surrey United. Also, having just played last week to settle first place in Group A of the SC Cup, two teams with title ambitions in Whitecaps U19 and FC Tigers will run it back for another round to begin the campaign. Elsewhere, FC Faly get their first look at Micro Footie Academy with both sides looking to put cup campaigns that failed to meet internal expectations behind them by beginning league play with a win. After over a year of waiting Abbotsford United will now begin defense of their Premier Division title. It will be a stiff test for Premier FC as they begin their first FVSL Premier campaign.

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

Send NEWS to media@fraservalleysoccer.com

And for more information on the FVSL go to [fraservalleysoccer.com](https://www.fraservalleysoccer.com)



Fraser Valley Soccer League

