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REVIEW



ROUND EIGHT REVIEW: week of July 4th to July 10th

Round eight featured eight total matches over the weekend with back-to-back matches for both Varsity FC and Highlanders FC. Altitude FC was on their bye week, and the other six clubs had important matchups which resulted in three out of the four spots in the inaugural League1 BC Championship Finals weekend being secured. There were 26 goals scored over the eight games with plenty of wonder-strikes making it into the back of the net! Varsity FC showed their depth throughout their club as they claimed all 12 points available to them over the weekend. Unity FC and Rivers FC played two close matches up in Kamloops, and the action at Swangard Stadium showed TSS Rovers to be tough hosts as they shut-out Highlanders FC on the day.

Saturday July 9th, Centennial Stadium Victoria, Victoria Highlanders FC vs Varsity FC

Highlanders FC W (0) 0

Varsity FC W (1) 2 [Tolnai 27', Alexander 88']

This matchup proved to be another close result, with Ava Alexander doubling the Varsity FC lead in the final moments of the match. Highlanders FC were looking to win two in a row after their victory up in Kamloops last weekend, but the depth of Varsity proved to be too challenging and a solid performance didn't give them any points to walk away with at home.

Highlanders FC M (1) 2 [Henman 7', 49']

Varsity FC M (2) 3 [Fischer 6', Kaiser 28', Clarke 51']

Varsity FC started their weekend off on the right note, with a 3-2 win on the road at Centennial Stadium. Daniel Kaiser's goal in the 28th minute was the only goal of the match that didn't have a quick response from the opposing team. Caleb Clarke added to his season's tally in the 51st minute trying to keep pace with TSS Rovers' Erik Edwardson for the Men's scoring title. Michael Henman's brace was not enough for Highlanders FC to play spoilers and Steve Simonson's squad would need to look to Sunday to break back into the win column after losing four in a row.

Saturday July 9th, MacArthur Island Park Kamloops, Rivers FC vs Unity FC

Rivers FC W W (1) 2 [Miller 31', Curts 79']

Unity FC W (0) 3 [Harvey 53', Hicks 55', Stewart 72']

Rivers FC got on the scoreboard first in the 31st minute, but the halftime adjustments made by Unity FC saw them come out of the break with goals in the 53rd and 55th minute to go ahead 2-1. Kelsey Stewart extended the lead for the visitors and Camryn Curts brought Rivers FC within one goal when she scored in the 79th minute. The Langley-based squad held on for the lead, and have their last two games on the road to try and catch up to the Whitecaps FC Women and earn their place in the Finals.

Rivers FC M (0) 0

Unity FC M (0) 1 [Thomson 90+']

The stalemate over 90 minutes was broken in extra time when Jackson Thomson slotted home a ball played across the face of the goal to give Unity FC a hard-earned three points. Rivers FC defended their 'home' field at MacArthur Island Park well, and the teams battled back-and-forth with neither side being able to put one past the opposing goalkeeper. Rivers FC didn't score a goal this season against an experienced Unity FC side but put forth a great team effort in the match to keep it close and build on the performance for their final two matches of the season.

Sunday July 10th, Ken Woods Field Vancouver, Whitecaps FC vs Varsity FC

Whitecaps FC W (1) 1 [Bergen 21']

Varsity FC W (3) 4 [Erhardtsen 31', Baxter 45+, 45+, 86']

This contest was an enormous one for the two teams at the top of the Women's table. Whitecaps FC was coming off their bye week and Varsity FC played in Victoria on Saturday, so it was a battle of youthful, fresh legs against an experienced, deep squad. The home side scored the first goal with Whitecaps FC's Sierra Bergen slotting a great ball past Varsity 'keeper Sarah Johns in the 21st minute. Varsity FC were more than up to the task with the equalizer coming from Katelyn Erhardtsen 10 minutes later. Jenna Baxter was subbed in near the end of the first half and made an immediate impact, scoring two goals past Leah Parsons in first-half injury time to make it 3-1 Varsity FC at the half. The Whitecaps FC players made a valiant effort to equalize, but their fitness was no match on the day for Jesse Symons' group as Jenna Baxter completed her hat trick in the 86th minute and the Varsity FC Women were the first team to clinch a spot in the Finals on August 1st

Whitecaps FC M (1) 1 [Norman 24']

Varsity FC M (1) 2 [Jhuty 43', Gardner 58']

Not to be outdone by the female side of their club, the Varsity FC Men were 2-1 victors at Ken Woods Field against a determined Whitecaps FC squad who were trying to keep their Championship Finals' hopes alive. Mike Mosher's squad would need to dig deep to get a result after 90 minutes in Victoria the day before this match. Luke Norman slotted home a cut-back pass to give the Whitecaps the lead first, but Varsity FC put on the pressure and scored on a spilled ball in front of the goal with Manmeet Jhuty being in the right spot at the right time right before the half. Thomas Gardner continued to impress in the midfield and scored the winner in the 58th minute. This result clinched a spot in the Finals for Varsity FC's Men, with two matches remaining for them on the season.

Sunday July 10th, Swangard Stadium Burnaby, TSS Rovers vs Victoria Highlanders FC

TSS Rovers W (0) 1 [Bishop 30']
Highlanders FC W (0) 0

This match was another must-win for the TSS Rovers women's side to mathematically stay alive in the race to make it to the Finals. Katie Bishop scored an absolute screamer from almost 25 yards out in the 30th minute, and the Rovers kept the visiting Highlanders at bay on a beautiful afternoon at Swangard Stadium. With only two matches left in their season, TSS Rovers' next fixture against Whitecaps FC will be telling in their quest to finish off their season strong!

TSS Rovers M (2) 4 [Jones 20', Edwardson 30', 78', MacMillan 73']
Highlanders FC M (0) 0

Will Cromack's team put away four crucial goals past Trevor Schneider in the Highlanders goal, some of the highlight variety, and kept the momentum going through the match to ensure Highlanders FC didn't get back into the match whatsoever. Erik Edwardson continued his torrid scoring pace for the Rovers, and now has 9 goals in 10 matches. The supporter-owned club had a very happy ending to this day because not only did the club shutout Highlanders FC, but the Rovers Men's win also combined with the Whitecaps FC Men's loss means that the Men's Final is now set – Varsity FC and TSS Rovers now can't be caught and will compete in the Championship Finals on August 1st.

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