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HALL PREVIEW

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ROUND TEN PREVIEW: *week of July 21st to July 25th*

This is it! This is our final regular season Preview, as year one of League1BC comes to a climactic conclusion, with one BIG issue still to be determined, and 2 critical games to decide it. We already know that Varsity will play TSS Rovers in the Men's Division final on August 1st, and they even provided a dress-rehearsal for that game on Tuesday night! (review below). But the Women's Division final is still awaiting a foe for Varsity, with TSS Rovers bowing out of the race in that same series on Tuesday night. Will it be the Whitecaps Women who started the season so strongly, or will it be Unity FC, which has been on some kind of run in the last several weeks?

Tuesday July 19th, Swangard Stadium Burnaby, TSS Rovers vs Varsity FC

TSS Rovers FC W (0) 0

Varsity FC W (4) 4 [Erhardsen '25, Baxter (pen) '31, Tolnai '36, '39]

(A little bonus review from a Tuesday night game). This was a chance for Chelsey Hannesson's women to claim a berth in the final, against their adversaries on the night, which could have completed a Varsity-Rovers double header on August 1st and on home soil for the Burnaby-based club to boot! But it wasn't to be, as the Varsity women ran rampant in a devastating 15-minute span that saw them score four times. Katelyn Erhardsen found a soft spot in the area and powered home on 25 minutes, before Jenna Baxter converted a penalty just 6 minutes later. Katalin Tolnai then scored 2 goals in 3 minutes to put the game away, with Jesse Symon's team now in the luxurious position of watching and waiting to see which opponent they'll face come BC Day.

Friday July 22nd, Ken Woods Field NSDC: Whitecaps FC vs Rivers FC

Women: 6:00pm

Men: 8:30pm

The Women's Division final could be confirmed Friday evening in Point Grey, IF Katie Collars young women can defeat Rivers FC. Naturally, the Kamloops based team would love nothing more than to not only play spoiler, but also avenge their June 19th home loss to the 'Caps by an 0-3 score line. That game featured several players who have since moved on to University programs, meaning a younger less experienced team, but one that has no shortage of quality or desire to feature August 1st. If you're planning your League1 BC live viewing schedule...this is the first must watch affair. Any result other than a Whitecap win, will open the door for the second must see match of the round.

The Whitecaps Men were held to a 1-1 draw in Kamloops when the two sides met in June, in a game that saw Rivers play with 10 men for the majority of the game. Rivers are coming off arguably their biggest win of the season, as they took out the division leading Varsity FC, and would love nothing more than to earn another solid result, in a weekend that sees them travel to Victoria to close out their year one campaign on Sunday.

Sunday July 24th, Kinsmen Field North Vancouver: Altitude FC vs Unity FC

Men: 1:00pm

Women: 3:30pm

Of the many positive stories to come out of League1 BC's inaugural season, the support of Altitude by the North Shore soccer community, and the game-day experience at cozy Kinsmen field, has been a testament to a lot of hard work by the club. This will be the last chance to experience a match-day on Jones Ave, as Altitude hopes to continue their tremendous run of form. The men's team has won 3 straight, and are undefeated in four, but depending on how Rivers makes out on Friday, a victory on Sunday could leap frog Altitude all the way to fourth place, something that might have seemed a stretch even a month ago. Unity could finish as high as third with a win, and a Whitecaps loss on Friday, which would represent a great finish to the season for Mike Shearon's men, who were on the receiving end of a 2-4 loss when these clubs met July 3rd.

As for the Altitude women, they will want to bounce back from a tough loss last week at home to the Highlanders while Unity is chasing a spot in the League1 BC Finals August 1st. Graham Roxburgh's group has won 6 of their last 7, including a 2-1 home win over Altitude July 3rd. If the Whitecaps slip up on Friday and don't take maximum points at home to Rivers, the door will be wide open for Unity, who remain the only side to beat the women's division leaders (Varsity women) this season.

Sunday July 24th Centennial Stadium Victoria: Highlanders vs Rivers FC

Women: 12:00pm

Men: 2:15pm

To say it's been an odd season for one of the longest operating clubs in the league, would be an understatement. There is a mathematical possibility that both men's and women's teams could finish bottom of their respected divisions, which would have seemed unlikely at stages throughout their campaigns. The Highlanders women are coming off an encouraging win at Altitude and would like to at least solidify 5th place, which would be respectable given that it took 7 games before they earned a win.

The Highlanders men got off to a storming start in their League1 history, playing the Whitecaps of the park at times while building a 2-0 lead in week one, only to stumble at the end settling for a point. It may have been harbinger for the season ahead, as Steve Simonson's men showed brilliant moments in beating the Whitecaps and Altitude comfortably at home, but also developing a habit of conceding goals and penalties at inopportune moments. The Highlanders men would love nothing more than to entertain the Centennial crowd one last time this season and move out of the divisional basement, which would require a win, and an Altitude loss.

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