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REVIEW



ROUND NINE REVIEW: week of July 16th to July 20th

Round 9 saw the Varsity men fall to defeat for only the second time this season, while Altitude's men continued their strong finish to the season. In the women's division, Unity FC ensured their place in a fantastic 3 team race for second spot, which will ultimately determine who plays Varsity FC in the League1 BC Finals on August 1st.

Saturday July 16th, Centennial Stadium Victoria: Highlanders vs Unity

Victoria Highlanders W (0) 0

Unity FC W (2) 3 [T Hicks '15, Harvey '30, Virk '80]

The ladies from Langley made it 3 wins in a row, with a comprehensive performance in the capital. At the quarter hour mark, Kat Harvey was switched on from a throw-in, driving deep and delivering a pin-point cross which Theresa Hicks nodded home. Just 15 minutes later, Karlee Pederson snuffed out a promising Highlanders attack, then unleashed a 50-yard pass that sent Kat Harvey on a breakaway and she made no mistake in slotting home. Nikki Virk put a bow on the performance after pinching a through ball in midfield, before unleashing a 30-yard bomb that flew past Emily Moore. The Unity women will close the season Sunday afternoon at Altitude with huge implications, as they could punch their ticket to the finals.

Victoria Highlanders M (0) 2 [Sagaste '58, Gysbers (pen) '90+]

Unity FC M (0) 2 [Roxburgh '54, Powell (pen) '83]

Highlanders coach Steve Simonson promised an exciting team that "goes for it", and for the second straight week, his men provided an entertaining spectacle, with a very willing dance partner in Unity FC. After a scoreless first half, the visitors got on the board first when Xander Roxburgh stabbed home after a scrumbly set-piece sequence. The Highlanders nearly responded straight away from their own free-kick but were called offside. Javier Sagaste did restore parity moments later when he neatly placed a seeing eye strike from the edge of the 18 which nestled into the near corner. The Victorians have had a nasty habit of conceding ill-timed penalties, which they did again in the 83rd minute which Thomas Powell converted. But deep into stoppage time, the home side earned their own spot shot which Cody Gysbers slotted home, leaving both sides with a well-deserved point.

Saturday July 16th, Hillside Stadium Kamloops: Rivers FC vs Varsity FC

Rivers FC M (0) 2 [Hansen '66, '72]

Varsity FC M (0) 1 [Mrazek '90]

The Rivers men were hoping to make the most of their final home game, while finishing the season on a positive note, and they did not disappoint. After a goal-less first :45, Rivers struck first when Kyle Hanson cleverly back-heeled a Daniel Sagno through ball past Bennett MacKay, with the Varsity back-line appealing for what looked like a legitimate off-side flag. There could be no arguments about the next goal just six minutes later though, when Daniel Sagno's pressure won Rivers possession, and the speedy full-back squared it neatly for Hansen again, who tucked the ball away for what would prove to be the game winner. Connor Mrazek spoiled Jackson Gardner's clean sheet with an incredible strike that somehow found its way past a sea of orange jerseys. A very encouraging final home game for the Kamloops men.

Rivers FC W (0) 1 [Tulloch '90+]

Varsity FC W (3) 4 [Tolnai 10', Baxter '37, Ward '45 + 2', Damian '75]

It didn't take long for the Women's Division runaway leaders to open the scoring, when Katelyn Tolnai was in the perfect spot to convert a rebound after Jenna Baxter had spun and hit the post. Baxter would ripple the netting 27 minutes later, after being released by a beautiful Sophie Damien though ball. Holly Ward would pile on some misery in first half stoppage time, when she converted from the penalty spot to the end the half. Sophie Damian scored an incredible goal from a clever corner, as she redirected a low-driven cross towards the near post, which just snuck over the line. Rivers did send their home crowd away with the final goal at Hillside this season, when Avery Tulloch unleashed a 45-yard free kick past a stunned Varsity goalkeeper in the dying moments of stoppage time.

Sunday July 17th, Kinsmen Field North Vancouver; Altitude FC vs Highlanders FC

Altitude FC W (0) 0

Victoria Highlanders W (1) 1 [Jensen '8]

This game between 5th (Altitude) and 6th (Victoria Highlanders) in the Women's Division was decided in the 8th minute and may have been aided by the slick pitch after a rain shower soaked Kinsmen Field. Erin Jensen appeared to try and whip a ball into the danger area from the edge of the box, but it somehow skipped past Altitude goalkeeper Sarah Loewen, and that was it for the scoring. The result meant a reversal of positions, with both teams preparing for their final game next week; both at home, and both eager to avoid finishing bottom.

Altitude FC M (1) 3 [Habibullah '12, Rafael '56, Savane '84]

Victoria Highlanders FC M (0) 0

The Altitude men have been on quite a roll, undefeated in 3, with 2 straight victories including an impressive 2-4 away triumph at Unity. And the good times kept rolling on the North Shore when Massud Habibullah scored just 12 minutes in. Rafael Jorge doubled the advantage 11 minutes into the second half, before Soumaila Savane curled a 30-yard free kick from the right flank that one-hopped past a frozen Trevor Schneider and in. With the win, Altitude avenges the earlier season meeting between the two sides, which also saw the home team winning 3-0.

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