

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Zach Verhoven



Zach currently plays for Pacific FC in the newly formed Canadian Premier League. We caught up with Zach this summer and asked him a few questions about his time at Surrey United and how it played into his recent successes at UBC and within Pacific FC.

How were you scouted for UBC and Pacific FC? In my last season with Surrey United many university coaches would come watch our league games. I was fortunate to catch the eye of UBC's head coach Mike Mosher. I was contacted and eventually was offered a great scholarship there. For CPL, at the end of the university season there was a draft where 21 players from Canadian universities were chosen to get a chance to be a part of the selected CPL team's pre-season camp to try to earn a professional contract. CPL coaches had been watching university games and scouting players. I was fortunate to be chosen by Pacific FC, 9th overall in the CPL draft.

How did your time at Surrey United contribute to your successes so far? I am very grateful for my time at Surrey United as I started there at 5 years old and developed through the Surrey United Academy. Former technical director, Craig Dalrymple coached me when I was young and recommended me to the Whitecaps prospect academy which was a huge factor in my development at a young age. After many successful years playing in the Whitecaps program, I was released which was very upsetting and made me question if I wanted to continue pursuing soccer at a high level. However, a call from Surrey United brought me back home! Throughout the next four years at Surrey United I had nothing but good memories. A big thank you to Scott Howey, Adam Day, and Pat Rohla - my three

coaches who all had high expectations for me which helped push me to become a better person/player. I was fortunate enough to have very strong teammates throughout my time there. Some of my closest friends to this day are still guys from my Surrey United teams. Being around some of the best players in the province of course helped me grow as a player and as an individual, so I thank my teammates as well. I would also like to thank Jeff Clarke, current Technical Director at Surrey United. Jeff was a big influence on helping me grow as a player in my final years there and helped me connect with different Universities in my final year. With his recommendations I was able to get the opportunity for playing for UBC.



What are your favourite memories of Surrey United?

My favourite Surrey United memory was an amazing playoff run in my U17 season. The league consisted of both U17 & U18 teams. Each club had their '98 age team and '97 age team in the same league. We beat Fusion 97' born in the quarterfinals and beat Mountain '97 born in the semifinals. We then had an "all Surrey United final" (my team 98s vs 97s). We ended up tying 1-1 in full time and losing in double extra time. It was a heartbreaking loss. However, I was fortunate enough that the '97 age group ended up asking me to come with them to the national tournament in P.E.I which was a great experience!

What do you miss about Surrey United? I most definitely miss playing with my teammates the most. I still am very close with many of my Surrey United teammates off the field but as you move on to university you often end up playing against your old teammates. Nothing but good times with that team, coming to training was my favourite part of the day. We did the business on the field and had so many laughs and memories that I still cherish to this day.

