



THE REGIONAL NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON ROADS SINCE 2013

# The Bluesletter

Thursday, February 16, 2016

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## The Blues are back!

Practices resume tonight as the Blues prepare for their playoff run in the second half of the 2016-2017 season! We practice Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm – 9pm at Captain Slade Cutter Park in Norfolk. For all of the info you need, go to [www.bluesrugby.org](http://www.bluesrugby.org).

With high expectations for the spring season, the Blues turned it on during the “off” season, working on their strength and fitness. Several players continued playing Rugby, representing the Capital Rugby Union Select side in two victories over the USA South Panthers and DC Stars teams. Head Coach Chris Porter, Eric Hagen, Jake Humphrey, Jim (Doc) Irely, William “Jeff” Jefferson, Nick Sandoval, Jimmy Smith, and Tavaris “Smiley” Tucker all represented the Blues at the select camps, to include developmental sides. Doc earned the title of man of the match for his effort against the Stars.

Our **Division 1** side is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a record of 4-3-1 after ending the fall with a tie at home against Schuylkill River. When league play resumes on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Lafayette Park, the Blues will look to avenge their 32-10 loss against 2<sup>nd</sup> place Pittsburgh.

The **D3** squad finished the fall season at 5-4, securing a narrow victory of 32-31 against James River in the fall’s final match. They are sitting in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the D3 South-East. Their only remaining league match is a road event against Rappahannock on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Several other matches and tournaments are in the works, and once confirmed will be updated at [www.bluesrugby.org/matches](http://www.bluesrugby.org/matches).

Both squads will travel to Annapolis, MD on February 25<sup>th</sup> for a friendly A & B side matchup against U.S. Naval Academy. Anyone in the area excited for spring Rugby to begin is encouraged to show your support at Prusmack Rugby Complex, Bryant Road, Annapolis, MD 21402.

### Vision for the Blues

“As a premier Rugby Football Club in the United States of America, the Norfolk City Blues will promote a sustainable brand as a cornerstone of East Coast rugby based on a winning tradition for all ages.”

## GAME DAY GEAR!

**FANS** will have the opportunity to purchase Blues merchandise at all home matches. Any WAGs or supporters interested in assisting with merchandise sales are encouraged to contact us via [www.bluesrugby.org/contact](http://www.bluesrugby.org/contact). All Blues gear is also available for purchase in our online store on our website.



**PLAYERS** will wear the white game day shirt (when showing up to home games, and traveling to away games), warm up in the blue athletic shirt, and wear the polo shirt after the match. **Warm-up shirts and socks are given to new players when they pay their dues or have started a payment plan.** The aforementioned items, along with game shorts and socks are also available for sale.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Website**

[www.bluesrugby.org](http://www.bluesrugby.org)

**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/norfolkbluesfanpage/>

**Instagram/Twitter**

**@norfolkbluesrhc**

Current players: Join private Facebook & yahoo email groups for updates.

### SCORING STATISTICS - FALL SEASON

#### Division I

**Try scorers:** Humphrey 7; N. Sandoval 6; Tucker 5; Paradiso 4; Kowalski 4; Wright 3; Baxter 2; Jones 2; Minichiello 2; Brodtmann; Eby; Hagen; Holsopple; Irej; Jefferson; Johnson; Mavrophillipos; Mott.

**Conversions:** Humphrey 27/42; N. Sandoval 0/2.

**Penalty Goals:** Humphrey 5/5.

#### Division III

**Try Scorers:** Parsons 4; Wright 4; Beau 3; Bell 3; Cameron 3; Deanda 2; Duff 2; Fraser 2; Holsopple 2; Naylon 2; Travis 2; Diego; Mott; Porter; T. Powell; Roberts; Robinson; A. Sandoval; Taskans; Thanassi; Thornton; Wintermantel; Wright; Zeitler.

**Conversions:** Brodtmann 3/4; Cameron 19/29; Eby 5/6; Wintermantel 1/2.

**Penalty Goals:** Cameron 3/3; Lazarz 1/1.

### MVP POINTS SYSTEM

After each match, an MVP, best back, and best forward are selected by the coaches, captain, and selectors. All players cast votes for "players' player." Points are annotated and winners are presented their awards at the end-of-season banquet, along with a rookie of the year award determined by the coaches.

### FALL SEASON TOTALS (SPRING POINTS ANNOUNCED AT BANQUET)

#### Division I (Not included: Wilmington, Rocky Gorge, and @ Potomac)

**MVP:** Humphrey 5; Johnson 5; Hagen 4; Baxter 3; Eby 3; Jones 3; Kowalski 3; Irej 2; Minichiello 1; Paradiso 1; Tucker 1.

**Forward:** Hagen 7; Johnson 6; Minichiello 5; Eby 4; Irej 4; Jefferson 3; Mott 1.

**Back:** Humphrey 8; Jones 5; N. Sandoval 5; Baxter 3; Kowalski 3; Brodtmann 2; Paradiso 2; Tucker 2.

**Players' Player:** Jefferson 9; N. Sandoval 5; Irej 3; Johnson 3; Humphrey 2; Baxter; Fraser; Hagen; Kowalski; Minichiello.

#### Division III (through first 5 games)

**MVP:** Wright 6; Chewy 3; Duff 3; Nasty 3; Muller 3; Naylon 2; Csenar 2; Diego.

**Players' Player:** Diego 6; Carden 4; Wright 4; Cameron 3; Mott 3; Booth 2; Eby 2; Jackson 2; Csenar; Kruse; Richardson; Travis.



## NORFOLK BLUES HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY

The high school team is set to begin their second season, opening up with a scrimmage against Virginia Beach on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Many of the boys put in hard work during their offseason, showing up to practices and fitness sessions with the Men's side. DI Backs Selector Anthony Kowalski, our director of Youth Rugby, devoted countless hours to a highly productive offseason as he organized fundraising, recruiting at area high schools, and brought in multiple new sponsors for the high school team. The boys have a packed schedule through May and with several returning players, are hopeful for a strong season.

## OLD BOYS

Head to [www.bluesrugby.org/old-boys](http://www.bluesrugby.org/old-boys) to review the Old Boys section. The club needs your support to meet their goals for the year. They will also be planning some Old Boy specific events in the future. There are countless ways to support the club, including Old Boys dues. Please check out the website and get involved! Once a Blue, Always a Blue!



## PRACTICE AND DUES

Practices are currently being held at Captain Slade Cutter Park in Norfolk on Tuesdays and Thursdays (from 7-9pm). For park closure during inclement weather, we will make an announcement ahead of practice and shift to Norfolk Collegiate or the Virginia Beach Field House. Practice starts promptly at 7:00pm, so arrive 15-30 minutes early to get ready.



## 2017 BLUES HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY SCHEDULE

11-Mar	VIRGINIA BEACH SCRIMMAGE
18-Mar	at NEWPORT NEWS MARINERS – CRITTENDON MIDDLE
25-Mar	MARYLAND EXILES – MT. SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
1-Apr	vs. HAMPTON HEAT – LAFAYETTE PARK
8-Apr	CHERRY BLOSSOM – WASHINGTON D.C.
15-Apr	EASTER WEEKEND - BYE
22-Apr	JESUIT CLASSIC – LEESBURG, VA
29-Apr	vs. VIRGINIA BEACH – LAFAYETTE PARK
6-May	PLAYOFFS
13-May	FINALS

**PAY YOUR DUES** – Dues are collected during the fall and spring seasons. For Blues in their first season or full time students, the cost is **\$100**. All returning players must pay **\$200**. Payment plans can be worked out on an as-needed basis. We also offer the opportunity for players to be “sponsored,” that is, have their dues covered through the club/Old Boys under certain conditions. **If any players are struggling to pay dues, please seek assistance through team leaders!** It is the goal of the club to welcome all Ruggers, regardless of ability to pay. Ask for help and we will accommodate the needs of every individual.

**Come to Mojos!**

**Thursdays after training, and our socials after home games.**

## FALL 2016 RESULTS

September 10. Norfolk 50 – Potomac 29. **D3** Blues 34 – James River 36.  
September 17. Norfolk 36 – Schuylkill River 34. **D3** Blues 40 – Richmond D3 17.  
September 24. Norfolk 10 – Pittsburgh 32. **D3** Blues 26 – Newport News 27.  
October 1. Bye. **D3** Blues 52 – Virginia Beach 12.  
October 8. Norfolk 41 – Baltimore Chesapeake 0. **D3** Blues 74 – Rappahannock 14.  
October 15. Norfolk 84 – Wilmington, DE 0. **D3** Blues 10 – James River 44.  
October 22. Norfolk 23 – Rocky Gorge 51. **D3** Blues 43 – Newport News 29. **BLUES GO PINK!**  
October 29. Norfolk 17– Potomac 18. **D3** Blues 20 – Virginia Beach 22.  
November 5. Bye for both teams. New Zealand v. Ireland in Chicago at Soldier Field.  
November 12. Norfolk 33 – Schuylkill River 33. **D3** Bye.  
November 19. Bye. **D3** Blues 32 – Richmond 31.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES

The EC met twice in the offseason in order to discuss the club's current status and its future. Topics included new merchandise, recruiting, media outreach, fundraising, volunteer opportunities, and player dues. Meeting minutes are available to any member of the Blues organization upon request, but the most important item to highlight in this issue of the Bluesletter is the increase in player dues. Due to underwhelming participation by current club members at fundraising opportunities, the club is unable to meet its financial obligations without generating new income. After much discussion, the EC voted unanimously to raise the cost of dues in order to make up the missing income. **Effective immediately (spring season), the cost of dues for new players is \$100, and for all returning players: \$200.** Social dues will no longer be collected after each match, and will instead be included in the club's annual budget.