



The Bluesletter

Wednesday 14 March 2018

Note from the Editor

If you have anything to pass on to our Bluesletter subscribers ensure I get the details by Tuesday 1200hrs and I will endeavor to get that information into Wednesdays' issue.

D1 - Norfolk Blues 38 Buffalo 25

This Saturday the Blues hosted Buffalo, on a Spring Tour down South out of their white wilderness, and looked to bounce back following a difficult and disappointing outing at the Naval Academy.



Within minutes of the kick-off **Jeff Jefferson** went over from close range following some phased play and strong pick and goes, **Jake Humphrey** slotting the conversion. Within 3 minutes Buffalo responded with a try of their own out wide following some weak tackling, but missed the extra 2 to tie the score. A period of midfield

too and fro littered with turnovers and poor handling in contact meant a number of scrums and kicks back and forth for territory with Buffalo scoring and converting from an interception on halfway with the Blues static in attack. Within an instant the Blues scored through **Adam Brubaker** following a long range counter attack from the back three, and soon after that **Cecil Wilson** restored the lead with a converted try following some good phase play through the forwards and hands by the backs. Just before the oranges Buffalo slotted a penalty to make the score 19 - 15.



The message at half time was to cut down on forcing the offload in contact and to support our runners, both of these points resulting in lots of turn over ball by the Blues for Buffalo to counter with.

From the restart Buffalo scored with another interception from a miss pass in midfield from slow ball. The Blues responded with some fine forward runs by **Irey**, **Jefferson** and **Holsopple**, but with support lacking the Blues turned the ball over too many times; eventually things got

better and the Blues scored through **Irey**, converted by **Jake**. From the kick off Buffalo scored again, but again missed the conversion; the Blues held the slender lead of 26 - 25 going into the last quarter. The Blues started to play some good rugby and with some big breaks and powerful runs dominated possession for long periods. The Blues were held up on or over the line a number of times, but a functioning set-piece meant the Blues kept Buffalo in a stranglehold in their half if not their 22;



eventually the Blues went over the line for a converted try through **Andrew Bray**. The Blues came back again from the restart with their strong forward runners making inroads into the Buffalo half and then 22 and with time running out **Matt Holsopple** went over for a try; the final whistle went with the Blues in the ascendancy and worthy winners of a tough contest. Man of the Match went to **Jeff Jefferson** with honourable mentions in performance for **Matt Holsopple**, **Doc Irey** and **Jake Humphrey**.

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 38 Buffalo 22

Tries: Jefferson, Brubaker, Wilson, Irey, Bray and Holsopple Cons: Humphrey 4 (from 6) Pens: None
Yellow Card: None Red Card: None

D2 - Norfolk Blues 33 Buffalo 17

D2 took the field against Buffalo with a full XV and plenty on the bench, what a difference a home game makes! The Buffalo side outweighed our boys in this match, but we had pace to burn all over the field so we were in for a “ding dong” battle from the outset.

Buffalo opened the scoring with a converted try following some “weak to say the least” tackling following a break up the blind from long range, but within minute **Dave Paradiso** scorched away on a diagonal run to score a converted try to level the scores. Buffalo dominated the ruck and tackle area with their superior size and weight, but the Blues held a threat outside of that with their speed.



Buffalo took the penalty opportunity from offside at a ruck to take the lead 10 – 7, but almost immediately **Tay Bell** scored from close range, again converted by **Johnny Cameron**, to make it 14 – 10. Buffalo came back with some strong running, not helped by a porous Blues defence, and their hardwork paid off with a converted try to make it 14 – 17 just before the half.

The teamtalk at the break was about being stronger in the tackle and to be more confident in the contact area. The Blues attacked with several long breaks, but just coming up short. Finally a long break with some wheels from **Ron White** took him under the posts and **James Frazer** converting to take the Blues up 21 – 17. The guys soaked up the heavyweight Buffalo attack and made in-roads themselves through strong forward runs by **Aaron Lee**, **TJ** and **Lurch**; fitness and youth were coming to the fore! The Blues scored a converted try through **Jessie Booth** and going into the final quarter the Blues were dominating. Old-boys **Andy Pero** and **Matt Seaton**



made their return into the front row and boosted the pack. The Blues were “held-up” over the line on two occasions, but came back from a clearance to halfway scoring through a **Randy Price** run. The Blues piled on the

pressure, but the final whistle went and the Blues worthy winners 33 – 17.

Honourable mentions must go to **Anthony Kowalski** and **Ryan “Lurch” Carden** for individual work rate throughout with Man of the Match going to **Anthony Sandoval**.

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 33 Buffalo 17

Tries: Paradiso, Bell, White, Booth and Price Cons: Cameron 2 (from 2) and Fraser 2 (from 3) Pens: None
Yellow Card: None Red Card: None



Practice schedule:

Practices are normally on Tuesday and Thursday evening (1900-2100hrs) at Cutter Park, but if Cutter Park is closed we could move to Norfolk Collegiate or the Virginia Beach Field House, so if inclement weather is forecast check our social media for updates.

Social media:

Please sign-up to our social media platforms:

On Facebook:

Players “**Norfolk Blues Rugby - current players**”

WAGs “**The Official Norfolk Blues WAGs**”

High School “**Norfolk Blues High School Rugby**”

Old Boys “**Norfolk Blues Old Boys**”

Instagram and Twitter: **[norfolkbluesrfc](#)**

Worldwide Web: **www.bluesrugby.org**

You can also sign-up to join our “**Yahoo Email Group**” and receive email updates including **The Bluesletter**.

Fixtures for 2017/18 Season:

Date	Home		Away		D1B Match?
09-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues	43	Potomac Exiles	10	Potomac Forfeit
16-Sep-17	Schuykill River	28	Norfolk Blues	29	W 15 - 41
23-Sep-17	Washington Irish	18	Norfolk Blues	31	No
30-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues	X	Raleigh	X	L 22 - 50
07-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues	P	Rocky Gorge	P	To Be Rearranged
14-Oct-17	Baltimore-Chesapeake	5	Norfolk Blues	45	L 37 - 17
21-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues	48	Washington Irish	44	No
04-Nov-17	Rocky Gorge	21	Norfolk Blues	17	L 47 - 21
11-Nov-17	Potomac Exiles	17	Norfolk Blues	35	W 26 - 54
03-Mar-18	Naval Academy	41	Norfolk Blues	0	L 51 - 10
10-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues	38	Buffalo	25	W 33 - 17
17-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues		Pittsburgh		Virginia RFC
24-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues		Baltimore-Chesapeake		Yes
07-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues		Schuykill River		Yes
14-Apr-18	Pittsburgh		Norfolk Blues		No
21-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues		Rocky Gorge		Yes

****Start sorting your calendar now! If you are unavailable, let the selectors/coach know in plenty of time****

The Blues Vision

“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”.