



The Bluesletter

Wednesday 07 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.

D2 - Naval Academy 51 Norfolk Blues 10

On Saturday the Blues made the trip to Annapolis and our annual Spring "friendly" fixture with the US Naval Academy.

The fact that it was an away game again affected attendance and we took the field with a bare 15 with **Chris Porter** having to start in the lineup at 10 following a shuffle with debut prop **CJ Burnes** having to drop out in the warm-up following an injury picked up on Thursday night.

With just two training sessions under our belt following the Winter break and the recent bad weather cancellations the Blues were undercooked and very tentative in the opening 20 minutes. The Academy jumped all over this and ran in a couple of scores before we started getting off the defensive line and putting some tackles in. The game was played in high winds blowing straight down the pitch, but it had a no ill effects on the Academy youngsters who were big and strong with a game plan to benefit their strengths. The Academy are now coached by former Leinster hooker and Irish A capped Gavin Hickie, in his short time at the helm has transformed the set-piece into a formidable platform, providing solid possession on their ball and a powerful offensive weapon against ours.

Following the half time team talk the Blues started the second period with a bit more aggression, adapting a quicker linespeed in defence and seemed to enjoy knocking guys over! The Blues scored two well worked, and patient, tries in the second period, but were well beaten in the end by 51 points to 10, with the slow start costing dear against a well drilled and very fit side.

Honourable mentions in performance for **Matt Deanda**, **Brian Deely** and **Caleb Tvrdy**.

Final Score: US Naval Academy 51 Norfolk Blues 10
Tries: Gray and Deanda Cons: None Pens: None
Yellow Card: CHRIS PORTER Red Card: None



D1 - Naval Academy 41 Norfolk Blues 0



With all the absentees we had to shuffle the cards; **Dylan Powell** came into the line-up starting on the flank, **Cecil Wilson** in at scrum half with **Caleb Tvrdy** and **Andrew Bray** onto the wings following a full 80 minutes for the B-side and **Justin Menke** going into the centre; with the whole of the B-side filling the bench in reserve.

The Academy playing against the wind wasted no opportunity getting on the scoreboard after 3 minutes with the Blues guilty of running the ball

out of the 22 vice using the conditions from the KO. The Academy had the Blues on the back foot at scrum time, using this opportunity during several first half penalties vice kicking into the wind to run at the Blues. They frequently outflanked our defence, but we scrambled well and snuffed out some early attacks. The Blues were guilty of playing too much rugby in the wrong areas and when the ball was spilled or turned over the Navy ran it back with speed and aggression.



At half time, and three scores down, we knew that we would have to keep the ball quite tight and to be fair the Navy had struggled against our pick and go and our driving maul from lineout during the first half, so that was the directive. The Blues went through multiple phases keeping the ball, re-cycling well, but when caught with one up runners or too slow support, the Navy "choked" our runners and turned us over and wasted no opportunity in putting the ball way back down field for us to start again. Towards the end of the game we coughed up some poor tries through tiredness and although the scoreline is not flattering at all we missed some chances to get onto the board, the Navy however were far more clinical in their execution and were able to rotate their bench to good effect throughout the final spell.



Honourable mentions must go to **Andrew Bray** and **Caleb Tvrdy** for playing nearly two whole matches and **Rich Gray** for coming on mid-second half into the front row, especially in those conditions, our back row (**Eric Hagen**, **Jeff Jefferson** and **Dylan Powell**), **Anthony Kowalski** and **James Avery**.

Final Score: US Naval Academy 41 Norfolk Blues 0

Tries: None Cons: None 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		Buffalo		Friendly
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
28-Apr-18	MAC Championship				
18-May-18	USA Eastern Regionals				
02-Jun-18	USA Rugby Championships				

****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”.