



# The Bluesletter

Wednesday 21 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 - Norfolk Blues 39 Virginia Rugby 34

On Saturday the Blues hosted Old-Blue Bryce Baxter's Virginia Rugby in a friendly at Lafayette Park. It was a beautiful day for rugby and the Blues added 25 names to the roster for the start of the match.



The Blues started well and after 12 minutes **Rich Gray** went over for a try, converted by **Beau Brodtmann**. Following some slack tackling Virginia came back into the game scoring two unconverted tries in five minutes; **Beau** got the scoreboard ticking again in our favour with a well taken penalty kick from 30 metres in front of the posts. Virginia carried the ball well, but

seemed to be getting away with quite a bit at ruck time by flooding the contact area, and looked rather illegal in doing so! This provided Old-Blue Bryce with a lot of time and room to pick holes in a shy Blues defence and by the 35<sup>th</sup> minute he had his hat-trick. Just before the half the Blues scored again with a converted try from **Jesse Booth** and at the interval the scores were tied up 17 - 17.

The half-time team talk was all about line speed in defence and to pick a man and stick with him, our defence was killing us!

Virginia scored within 3 minutes of the restart, converting the kick; the message was taking its time to get home! **Jesse Booth** scored again from a fine counter from deep in our half and following a couple of line breaks and some good recycling he was on his way, **Beau** converting. The



breakdown was becoming a bit of an issue, with Virginia continuing to get away with quite a bit, this meant our ball was really slow or turned over. The Blues introduced a swathe of substitutes, the injection of fresh legs gave us a bit of a boost and banged in two tries in 4

minutes through **Caleb Tvrdy** and **Andrew Bray**, with one converted, and took us out to a 36 - 24 lead. We then unloaded the rest of the bench, which meant everyone was getting at least 20 minutes, a result in itself! These changes gave Virginia a lease of life and they responded with two quickfire tries to take the score to within two points. A rather youthful Blues 15 dug in and broke the line time and again, but the ruling at the breakdown was not going well for us.

A penalty awarded just outside the 22 metres line was taken on, and slotted by **Beau**, but it meant that Virginia were just a score behind with 10 minutes to play. The youth and fresh legs kept the heavier and now tiring Virginia side out and with the final whistle the Blues took the chicken dinner! We now host Baltimore-Chesapeake this coming weekend with a bit to work on in the set-piece, tackling and defensive line speed this week being the focus.



Man of the match went to **Beau Brodtmann** with honourable mentions to **Jesse Booth**, **Dave Paradiso** and **TJ Holloman**.

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 39 Virginia Rugby 34

Tries: Gray, Booth (2), Tvrdy and Bray Cons: Brodtmann 4 (from 5) Pens: Brodtmann 2 (from 2)

Yellow Card: None Red Card: None

## D1 - Norfolk Blues 36 Pittsburgh Harlequins 12

Pittsburg were amazed and envious to see a green field, as the snow has reduced their field to a mudbath. Pitt had a few Capital Select players in their ranks, but the Blues fielded a very strong XV and bench with only captain **Eric Hagen** sidelined with a knee injury. The Blues started at a lightening pace, throwing the ball about a great deal of accuracy and running some great lines to make in-roads into the Harlequins defence, with 4 minutes on the board **Jake Humphrey** put in a cross kick from centre field out to a waiting **Matt Ball** to dot down out wide. We had worked on support lines and the breakdown this week and it paid off, the backs continued to run and pass with fluidity and the forwards backing up in the tackle area so that we could recycle quick ball. **Ben**

**McDougall** scored a try following some strong running and the Blues were out to a 10-point lead. From the kick off the Blues worked back down the field, and using the full width sent **Nick Sandoval** over to score. At the half-time whistle the Blues were 15 – 0 up; at the break the team talk was that of our mistakes letting

Pittsburg into the game, but to be fair we were playing well, just guilty of trying a bit too much.



Pittsburg into the game, but to be fair we were playing well, just guilty of trying a bit too much. We started the second half as we ended the first and were soon on the scoreboard with **Jake Humphrey** breaking through some weak tackling in the oppositions 22, going over and converting for a 7-pointer. The Blues started to use the bench and soon scored again through **Jeff Jefferson**, converted by **Jake**. At 29-



0 up and the Blues fully on top of the game, we emptied the bench over the next few stoppages, with **Rich Gray** the only one held back for now. Following some missed tackles up our right flank from a good run by the

Pitt' Number 8 they were disappointingly on the board with a five pointer, but normal service resumed when **Cecil Wilson** picked off an interception on the 40 and showed a clean pair of heels and went over to score for **Jake** to convert. The Blues found themselves in a bit of trouble with the referee, with penalty after penalty marching us down the field and from a lineout on our 5-metre line Pittsburg went over wide out and converted it for a 7-pointer. The final whistle went and the Blues ran out worthy winners; we were able to use the whole bench therefore providing some invaluable D1 experience against a good side, but there were some lessons to be learned from it i.e. Never switch off or they'll jump all over you!

Honourable mentions must go to our backline for executing some nice work, orchestrated by **Jake Humphrey** and the forward pack for providing a great platform in the set-piece and contact area, with our Man of the Match going to **Jeff Jefferson** for the second week in a row!

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 36 Pittsburgh Harlequins 12

Tries: Ball, McDougall, Sandoval, Humphrey, Jefferson and Wilson Cons: Humphrey 3 (from 6) 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.

## High School Rugby:

The 2018 High School Boys have rebuilt the team from last year under the leadership of the Blues Youth Coordinator **Steve Link**. Head Coach **Keith Wright** welcomed two new coaches in **Francois-Pierre duCluzel** and **Christophe Bouthiaux**. Both **Francois** and **Christophe** come to us from France, via NATO, and offer a great deal of experience, they have been essential in the growth of the Youth Program this past Fall and look to assist at the High School level this Spring. The team graduated a lot of players from last season, but have multiple three-year starters returning and have recruited some former Virginia Beach HS players and we look forward to their success with the Blues. RugbyVA has the team travelling a lot this season as



both Hampton and Virginia Beach are no longer in the Matrix competition. They have travelled to northern Virginia the past two weekends for much needed pre-season scrimmages; both weekends the boys travelled light, but look to be in full force this weekend as they travel to Richmond for the first matrix game of the season.

## Youth Rugby Clinic:

Following the climax of the Six Nations Championship, the Youth Rugby Clinic will start again this Saturday (24<sup>th</sup> March) at Lafayette Park. The fun starts at 1030 and will run until the start of the D2 game versus Baltimore-Chesapeake. Please pass the word to any new players that may want to attend, everyone is welcome no matter what experience they have.



## 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](http://www.bluesrugby.org)**

You can also sign-up to join our “**Yahoo Email Group**” and receive regular email updates about all things Blues, including **The Bluesletter!**

# Blues Fixtures/Results for 2017/18 Season:

Date	Home		Away		D1B Match?
09-Sep-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>43</b>	Potomac Exiles	10	<b>Potomac Forfeit</b>
16-Sep-17	Schuykill River	28	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>W 15 - 41</b>
23-Sep-17	Washington Irish	18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>31</b>	No
30-Sep-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>X</b>	Raleigh	X	<b>L 22 - 50</b>
07-Oct-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>P</b>	Rocky Gorge	P	<b>To Be Rearranged</b>
14-Oct-17	Baltimore-Chesapeake	5	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>L 37 - 17</b>
21-Oct-17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>48</b>	Washington Irish	44	No
04-Nov-17	Rocky Gorge	21	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>L 47 - 21</b>
11-Nov-17	Potomac Exiles	17	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>W 26 - 54</b>
03-Mar-18	Naval Academy	41	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>L 51 - 10</b>
10-Mar-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>38</b>	Buffalo	25	<b>W 33 - 17</b>
17-Mar-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>36</b>	Pittsburgh	12	<b>W 39 - 34</b>
24-Mar-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		Baltimore-Chesapeake		<b>Yes</b>
07-Apr-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		Schuykill River		<b>Yes</b>
14-Apr-18	Pittsburgh		<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		No
21-Apr-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		Rocky Gorge		<b>Yes</b>
28-Apr-18	<b>MAC Championship</b>				
18-May-18	<b>USA Eastern Regionals</b>				
02-Jun-18	<b>USA Rugby Championships</b>				

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

# Blues HS Boys Fixtures/Results for 2017/18 Season:

Date	Home		Away	
10-Mar-18	Vienna	32	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>37</b>
17-Mar-18	Fort Hunt	97	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>0</b>
24-Mar-18	Richmond Strikers		<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	
14-Apr-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		Newport News	
28-Apr-18	Benedictine College Prep		<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	
05-May-18	Springfield-West End		<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	

## 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”.