



# The Bluesletter

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## 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 -Rocky Gorge 47 Norfolk Blues 21

On Saturday the Blues made the trip to Rocky Gorge for the eagerly anticipated double header against the league front runners. Due to last minute drop outs, the teams travelled light, D2 only having one on the bench and playing backs, **Brian Nichols**, **Caleb Tvrdy** and the returning **Johnny Cameron** in the pack with **Ryan "Lurch" Carden** having to move into the front row. Gorge started well and their pack dominated the early stages through scrum and their offload game. Playing with the slight downhill advantage and with



the Blues taking a while to find their feet, and hands, RG started to rack up quite a lead, with the Blues rarely getting out of their own half; at half time they stared down a barrel 33-0 down.



The second half was a different story, the pack started to provide some good ball with strong scrummaging and decent lineout ball, but more importantly getting off the line in defence. The Gorge pack outweighed the Blues by quite a bit, but when we went through the phases the speed of the team found gaps and territory. **Michael "Fuzzy" Wagner** opened the scoring almost immediately with a try with No8 **Johnny Cameron** converting, 33-7. Gorge hit back with a pick and go effort to go 40-7 up, but the Blues hit back with a dummy, show and go from **Johnny "comeback" Cameron**, and after a quick suck of oxygen converted



his own try. The Blues continued to find gaps, but being held-up in contact and dropped ball stemmed the attack; Gorge scored again from a mistake at scrum time with the Blues defence slow to react to a squirt out from under their feet for the RG 9 to score. Again the Blues rallied, and in the last quarter a quick shuffle about and un-named sub **Chris Porter** entered the fray at fullback to pull the strings, the Blues showed some great flair and put into place the structure and gameplan that we have been encouraging at training, but some poor execution allowing RG to clear their lines. Eventually the guys clicked again, and with a great move and show of pace and hands **Trey Zinke** went in from 30 out to score and **Cameron** again

converted. The game finished with the Blues on the attack, with some great forwards work and a burst out of our half from **Ryan Carden** to over halfway, a good quick ruck sent the backs going and **Aaron Leith** had the fullback to beat in a footrace to the corner, but coughed the ball up just over the tryline in the tackle. Definitely a game of two halves, with the Blues really showing bright in the second. **Man of the Match** went to **Fuzzy Wagner** with **Johnny Cameron** and **Caleb Tvrdy** playing very well on comeback and debut.



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Final Score: Rocky Gorge 47 - Norfolk Blues 21

Tries: Wagner, Cameron and Zinke Cons: Cameron 3 (from 3) Pens: None  
Yellow Card: Caleb Tvrdy Red Card: None

# D1 -Rocky Gorge 21 Norfolk Blues 17

With some absences in the week causing some re-shuffling positionally; **Dylan Powell** came in to flank, **Jimmy Smith** in at prop, **Kris Wilson** onto the wing with the whole of the D2 squad onto the bench. This game was 2<sup>nd</sup> versus 1<sup>st</sup> and to any innocent unbiased spectator it was not to be a disappointment. Both teams going at each other for the full 80 minutes, something that the Blues coaches have been instilling into the squad for just this game **#full80**.



Rocky Gorge had a game plan of smashing it up with their forwards to release their backs, spearheaded by USA Eagle outside half Ben Cima; we knew it, and the Blues were prepared and up to the challenge. Due to the personnel changes our lineout as an attacking option was limited, just choosing front and some middle ball, but the scrum ripped RG apart on their put in, giving **Dutch Jones**



time to put the brakes on the dangerous RG backrow. RG didn't dissappoint with their aggression around the ruck, but even with some staunch defence the Blues found themselves defending their tryline for long periods and after about 15 pick and go attempts from metres out, Gorge scored and converted by Cima. The Blues also knocked on the door with a couple of pick and go attempts themselves, but twice losing possession inches out and we went into the oranges 7-0 down.



Playing with the slight downhill the Blues came more and more into the game as an attacking force, the dominant scrum driving RG back at every chance and the backs playing with fluidity and confidence. A scrum on the right was collapsed by Gorge on the retreat, the ball was swung out to **Humphrey**, miss 1 to **Cheese** and **Humphrey** taking the ball back on the loop, sending the winger and fullback to the sweetshop with a couple of shimmies and galloped in from 30 metres

to score and send the conversion through the uprights, 7-7. Five minutes later RG had the Blues on the tryline and went over again from close range, 14-7. The Blues found themselves on the wrong side of the referee at the tackle area, and we are still scatching our heads as to why, but after a number of penalties in and around our 22 the referee issued skipper **Doc Irey** a team warning and soon after had no hesitation in putting **William Jefferson** in the bin for ten minutes for "hands in the ruck". From that penalty Gorge again went from the corner from which another penalty was awarded, Gorge tapped and **Kris Wilson** came from behind the tryline to smash the 9 for the turnover, but the man in the middle had another



version of events and sent him to sit with his teammate and the Blues were down to 13 for the next 9 minutes! Rourkes Drift and the Alamo are all historical defence stories of overwhelming odds and adversity, this was right up there with them. The Blues again withered a tryline storm, but Gorge held on in the tackle and the penalty relieved the pressure. Following a couple of lineouts the boys came again venturing to just outside the 22 where eventually the ref discovered he could put his arm up in the other direction and **Humphrey** knocked it



over from infront, 14-10. RG continued to go for the corner at every opportunity rather than the guaranteed 3 points from their Eagle, and for the third time it paid dividends as they went over again from a series pick and go's, converted, 21-10. The Blues took the restart through **Adam Brubaker** and banged up through the forwards and with some great recycling good hands **Jake** made a break at the 40 and the supporting **Cheese** went over from 20 out, **Jake** converting, 21-17. With 5 minutes to go Gorge were down and out and the Blues were flying! From the kickoff the Blues hammered through the tiring RG defence with some decent bump and grind of their own and got to their 40 where RG infringed and **Jake** nudged the Blues into their half; the Blues won their line and rumbled forward into the 22 where **Jimmy Smith** was unloaded illegally in the tackle on the floor, was the ref going to award the penalty? NO! was the answer and the RG 9 scrambled the ball to Cima who hoofed the ball into touch for the Gorge win; WHAT A GAME!

**Man of the Match** went to **Jake Humphrey** with **Ben McDougall** and **Michele Minichiello** grabbing honourable mentions in what was a fantastic team effort. The Blues earn losing bonus point and go into the last game of the fall at Potomac on Saturday in second place.

**Final Score: Rocky Gorge 21 - Norfolk Blues 17**

**Tries: Humphrey and Kowalski- Dewitt Cons: Humphrey 2 (from 2) Pens: Humphrey 1 (from 1)**

**Yellow Card: William Jefferson and Kris Wilson 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:

Current players "**Norfolk Blues Rugby - current players**" and WAGs "**The Official Norfolk Blues WAGs**" on Facebook.

**norfolkbluesrfc** on Instagram and Twitter.

Our website is at [www.bluesrugby.org](http://www.bluesrugby.org)

You can 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	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	<b>43</b>	Potomac Exiles	10	Potomac Forfeit
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>Postponed</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		<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		<b>Yes</b>
17-Mar-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		Pittsburgh		No
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
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\*\***

## 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".