



The Bluesletter

Wednesday 15th 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 -Potomac 26 Norfolk Blues 54



The Blues travelled up to Bethesda, MD for the last game of the Fall to face Potomac; Potomac forfeited the fixture earlier in the year so little was known about the opponents, the Blues fielded a full XV with three on the bench including **John Leo** back from Puerto Rico. Potomac opened the scoring on 8 minutes with a try and conversion, but the Blues rallied with some good recycling and interplay for a penalty try awarded wide out for a high tackle, with the new laws the penalty try is now an

automatic 7 points. On 15 minutes the Blues scored again wide out on the left through **Michael "Fuzzy" Wagner**. Potomac were strong in the set piece, putting the Blues scrum and lineout under pressure, but around the field and in the contact area they were quicker and more slick than their opponents. On the half hour Potomac scored again to take the lead 14-12, but **Beau Brodtmann** touched down and converted almost immediately and in the final play of the half **Ryan "Lurch" Carden** scored and **Beau** converting to take the Blues into half-time up 14-26. The Blues lost prop "**Big**" **Mike Maciejczyk** with a hand injury forcing **Chris Porter** to take his rightful place in at hooker.

Norfolk opened the scoring in the second half through **Caleb Tvrdy**, again playing out of position in the back row, with **Beau** converting, 14-33; the Blues hit a purple patch in attack, winning some good ball from the lineout and now holding their own in the scrum as Potomac started to run out of gas, they increased their lead with tries from ??? and **Paradiso** both converted by **Beau**, 14-47. **John Leo** entered the fray in the back row, but was soon having a rest on the sideline having been yellow carded (it was the ref from the D1 game versus RG last week).

Potomac hit the, now 13 man Blues, for 2 tries to take the score to 26-47. After some tryline defending, **Fuzzy** saw yellow for holding the ball in the ruck, Blues down to 12 men! Scrums were now uncontested and because of that had to have a full 8 in there for play to continue leaving just 4 backs to defend, but Potomac were never to take advantage and instead the Blues grabbed a penalty try in the last minutes to take the score out to 26-54 and with it the win.

Man of the Match went to **Caleb Tvrdy** with **Aaron Lee** and **Chace Wheaton** getting honourable mentions.

Final Score: Potomac 26 - Norfolk Blues 54

Tries: Wagner, Brodtmann, Carden, Tvrdy, Paradiso, Penalty x 2 and ? **Cons:** Brodtmann 5 (from 6) **Pens:** None

Yellow Card: John Leo and Fuzzy Wagner **Red Card:** None

D1 -Potomac 17 Norfolk Blues 35

The Blues were able to make some changes to the starting line-up, with **Justin Menke** and **Eric Hagen** coming into the line-up and the in-form D2 boys taking the bench from their win. The Boys hit the ground running with some sharp work whipping the ball around the field and were rewarded with an opening try by **William "Jeff" Jefferson** converted by **Jake Humphrey**. The Blues lineout was a massive improvement from last week with a better variety of ball, but at scrum time the Blues absolutely



dominated Potomac at every opportunity, providing an armchair ride for **Dutch Jones** and a retreating wave of flashing feet for the Potomac 9. The Blues scoring again on 20 minutes through **Justin Menke** with **Jake** converting, 0-14. The Blues played some enterprising stuff, but perhaps were guilty of not taking the game too seriously at times and Potomac hit back from close range to pull back, 5-14 at the oranges.



The half time message was simple, go back to doing the basics and not to rush the phases. Within 5

minutes of the restart **Matt Holsopple** went over from a barnstorming run inside the 22, with **Jake** converting from in front of the posts and just 5 minutes later **Justin** went over for his second meatpie and again **Jake** adding the extras, 5-28. Potomac hit back with a sucker punch try under the posts, with the defence guilty of ball watching at a ruck close to the line. 30 minutes into the half **Jake** bagged a 5-pointer for himself and converting it from wide out.



Unfortunately the Blues to fall for the same Potomac sucker punch move from a ruck 6 minutes from time, 17-35, but the game was well won with the Blues demonstrating a great set-piece and an ability to counterattack from deep.



Man of the Match honours went to **Matt Ball** with **Eric Hagen** and **Justin Menke** getting honourable mentions.

This result leaves the Blues with a 6-1 record for the Fall and second place in the MAC Championship behind Rocky Gorge. The Blues picked up a sixth Try Bonus Point for the season and can now look forward to hosting four out of their five MAC Championship games in the Spring at home.

We also would like to wish a farewell to our Kiwi's, **Matt Ball** and **Ben McDougall**, who will be leaving us in the next week for Europe and New Zealand; the boys have been a welcome and new addition to the Blues and have fitted into our Club very well and we sincerely hope that they will return to us in the Spring, "te mihi me te haere haumaru!" which translated for them means thank you and safe travels.



Final Score: Potomac 17 - Norfolk Blues 35
Tries: Jefferson, Menke x 2, Holsopple and Humphrey
Cons: Humphrey 5 (from 5) Pens: None
Yellow Card: None Red Card: None

Practice schedule:

As we are moving into the close season practices at Cutter will stop until the New Year. Keep an eye out on the Players Facebook page for information on team run-outs. The running blocks will be posted on Facebook, everyone has a school track they can run on so don't make February a fitness month, keep on top of the blocks #full80.

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

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	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
17-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues		Pittsburgh		No
24-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues		Baltimore-Chesapeake		Yes
07-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues		Schuykill River		Yes
14-Apr-18	Pittsburgh		Norfolk Blues		No
28-Apr-18	MAC Championship				
18-May-18	USA Eastern Regionals				
02-Jun-18	USA Rugby Championships				

****Start looking at the calendar for the Spring 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".