



The Bluesletter

Wednesday 25 April 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.

D1b - Norfolk Blues 50 Rocky Gorge 36



D1b welcomed table-topping Rocky Gorge to Lafayette with both teams certain of play-off spots next weekend.

Gorge showed some class early on and opened up a 0-17 lead; their pick and go game rocking

the Blues rather passive defence and allowing them to go wide to score three tries. The boys fought back, showing what they could attack when they had decent ball, **Geno CG** scoring out wide and No8 **TJ Holloman** near the posts for **Johnny Cameron** to convert. At every opportunity the message onto the field was to stop waiting to tackle, get off the line and to be more aggressive, with Gorge being the bigger side it was easy for them to make ground against our static defence. RG scored again through their forwards only for **Andrew Bray** to score with a mazy run, **Johnny** banging over the extras, 19-24. **Geno** soon bagged his second of the game and the Blues were on fire! Some barnstorming runs by backs and forwards alike set RG on their heels and tries from **Marquis Williams** and **James Avery** opened up a healthy lead. Although the Blues lineout was a bit of a mess, the scrum functioned really well, providing **TJ** and **James** a great platform to put the Blues on the front foot with some strong running, but the scoring was too and fro, with RG scoring two more and the Blues adding through **Luke Calhoun** following a full 40metre romp up the left 15metre line and then second row/fly-half, **Johnny Cameron**, sidestepping from just outside the 22 to go over himself. JC then dusted himself down and converted his try and the Blues hit 50 to see out the match and with it handing Rocky Gorge their first defeat of the Season. The Blues had



demonstrated some belief in their abilities and good fitness levels in a great second half performance.

Man of the Match honours went to **Rich Gray** for some powerful running with special mentions to **Marquis Williams**, **TJ Holloman** and **Andrew Bray**.

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 50 Rocky Gorge 36

Tries: Geno Cg 2, Holloman, Bray, Williams, Avery IV, Calhoun and Cameron

Con: Cameron 5 (from 8) Pens: None

Yellow Card: None Red Card: None

D1 - Norfolk Blues 39 Rocky Gorge 35



D1B had set their stall, finally inflicting a first defeat of the season on RG, could D1 do the same in a battle of the D1 juggernauts?

The game started off at some pace, both teams going at it with very little finesse, but plenty of fire. We knew RG would use their pick and go and play some flat aggressive ball in the backline. Within the first 10 minutes they took the lead with a sniping try out to the right by their 9; but from the kick-off the Blues went back up the field with some



strong running and quick ruck ball and following some intense pressure put **Matt Ball**

over the whitewash, 5-5. The game was already turning into an arm wrestle, the Blues dominating the set-piece and RG the contact area which meant the backs were getting stifled in midfield. On 20 minutes RG scored again to take the lead, but whereas in days gone by the Blues backed off, again they ripped back into their opponents and bagged another try through **Ben McDougall**, 10-10. RG flooded the contact area with bodies which stopped our chance of any poached ball which kept them on the front foot and they scored again with a pick and go close to the line, converted, 10-17. RG took the chance to extend the lead from a



penalty for hands-in on 35 minutes, 10-20. Normally there would have been a bit of panic in the ranks, but the Blues rallied again and scored through **Adam Brubaker** following a nice run, 15-20 at halftime.

The only thing to talk about at half time was our

support at the breakdown and to be more aggressive in our defensive line and we were soon back at it.



Within a minute **Jake Humphrey** weaved his way over from the 22 converting his own try and the Blues had taken the lead 22-20. Following a penalty near halfway, the Blues went for touch into the RG 22, the lineout was

won, driven and mauled over the line for **Eric Hagen** to score a well executed try, 27-20. Within minutes Eric was on the scoresheet again following a tapped penalty move in the 22, the Blues were firing on all cylinders, 34-20. We knew the game wasn't over and RG then hit a purple patch, they worked hard to get into scoring position and some great scramble and try-line defence prevented them from getting back into the game, holding them up on two occasions over the line, but the pressure told and our static defence was caught out



from a quick tap penalty, 34-27. The Blues worked themselves up the field and a midfield dogfight ensued with no-one giving an inch. The Blues fitness started to kick in and won more and more of the collisions, following some strong running some quick ball was worked out to **Nick Sandoval**, and with little space and some

defenders to beat he went over in the corner, 39-27. Again RG came back at us, forcing us into some defending in our 22, but their pick and go attack was thwarted again and again; but they mixed it up and sent their centre over under the posts and a drop kick the con, 39-34, and a 3 minute finale. From the KO the Blues controlled the ball, keeping possession and working the clock. Following a number of rucks **Dutch Jones** put the ball into touch for a Blues win and with it, end of season champions and No1 seed in the play-offs. Finally the Blues had got the monkey off their backs and beaten Gorge, twice, a good day!



Man of the Match went to **Eric Hagen**, who lead from the front in both attack and defence with honourable mentions to **Chas Mueller**, **Doc Irely**, **Ben McDougall** and **Jake Humphrey**.

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 39 Rocky Gorge 35

Tries: Ball, McDougall, Brubaker, Humphrey, Hagen 2 and Sandoval

Con: Humphrey 2 (from 7) Pens: None

Yellow Card: None Red Card: None

Play-off Semi Final:



This Saturday, 25th April, the Blues host the Potomac Exiles at Lafayette for a 1400hours KO (2pm in old money).

The D1b side are also in play-off action at Doylestown where they will play their hosts.

It was great to have so many friends, family and old-boys supporting from the side-lines against Gorge, please come out again this Saturday and be the **BLUES 16th MAN!**

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 regular email updates about all things Blues, including [The Bluesletter!](#)

Blues Fixtures/Results for 2017/18 Season:

Date	Home		Away		D1B
09-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues	43	Potomac Exiles	10	W FF
16-Sep-17	Schuylkill 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
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	36	Pittsburgh	12	W 39 - 34
24-Mar-18	Norfolk Blues	76	Baltimore-Chesapeake	15	W 57 - 24
07-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues	69	Schuylkill River	19	L 13 - 20
14-Apr-18	Pittsburgh	16	Norfolk Blues	39	No
21-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues	39	Rocky Gorge	35	W 50 - 36
28-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues		Potomac Exiles		D1 Play-off
	Doylestown		Norfolk Blues		D2 Play-off
05-May-18	MAC D1 Championship			Morven Park, Leesburg	
19/20 May 18	USA Eastern Regionals			Obetz OH	
02/03 Jun 18	USA Rugby Championships			Glendale CO	

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

Blues HS Fixtures/Results for 2017/18 Season:

Date	Home		Away	
10-Mar-18	Vienna	32	Norfolk Blues	37
17-Mar-18	Fort Hunt	97	Norfolk Blues	0
24-Mar-18	Richmond Strikers	27	Norfolk Blues	17
14-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues	19	Newport News	39
28-Apr-18	Norfolk Blues		Benedictine College Prep	
05-May-18	Springfield-West End		Norfolk Blues	

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