



# The Bluesletter

Wednesday 2 May 2018

## D1 Play-off Semi-Final - Norfolk Blues 48 Potomac Exiles 5

D1 hosted the #4 Potomac Exiles out of Maryland in the Mid Atlantic Conference semi-finals. Potomac came out strong, drawing first blood as their number 8 crossed the line to put up the first points of the match, a 5-0 lead in favor of the visitors. The Exiles, thinking they had us snookered, and energized by their early lead in hostile territory, felt their confidence grow. Several early mistakes by Norfolk allowed Potomac to keep them under pressure. But as the Blues gathered composure, cleaned up the penalties, and committed to the execution of their game plan, they sent the guests home with Sweet Fanny Adams!

After some great phases inside the 22, **Dutch Jones** opened up the scoring with a try under the posts. Jake Humphrey easily made the conversion and from there, the Blues never looked back. Strong running by **Anthony Kowalski** extended Norfolk's lead as he crossed the whitewash, try converted, 14-5 Norfolk. Both sides showed some fatigue in the day's heat, which kept the referee on his whistle and set piece play familiar. The forwards took control, allowing the backline to spread the field and have their way with the opposition. Great movement through the hands set **Nick Sandoval** up for his first try on the day, converted, 21-5.



Becoming desperate, the Exiles turned up their aggression, and had many successful counter-rucks and poached ball. A lucky penalty to Norfolk put us in position for a penalty kick, through the posts by **Jake** for a comfortable 24-5 lead. After some back-and-forth, a few great breaks by the forward pack put **Benny Boy McDougal** in position to score as the first half came to a close, 29-5 in favor of the home team.



Once I could get my eyes off the strawberry creams in the stands, we focused on where to improve. Feedback after the first half was that our boys had very slow ball coming from the rucks. Serious adjustments were needed to increase aggression in the tackle area and secure possession. But, after a halftime chin-wag, all was tickety boo!

In the second half, the Blues came out firing again. The scrum was lower than a snake's butt in a wagon rut, and we continued to keep Potomac on their heels. I must admit it gave this ol' chap a biggie in his trousers!

**Nick Sandoval**, typically quite the fanny, found his way around the defence to touch down for 5 points, 34-5. **Justin Menke**, having returned from holiday (he fancies himself the bee's knees, but frankly he's quite the wanker), came in late and made a big impact. His long, smooth legs proved incredibly aerodynamic as he outran the defence and extended Norfolk's lead, crossing the line for a try, converted by Jake to put Norfolk up 41-5.

In the final minutes, it was a game of ground and pound. The forwards kept possession and after some breaks, found themselves deep in Potomac territory. After a great deal of patience and a cheeky move at the tryline, **Doc** was able to overpower a defender and put five more up for the Blues. Dutch took the conversion and the Blues sealed their spot in the MAC Championship. Pip pip!

Final Score: Norfolk Blues 48 Potomac Exiles 5

Tries: Jones, Kowalski, Sandoval 2, McDougal, Menke, Irej

Con: Humphrey 5 (from 7)

PK: Humphrey 1 (from 1)

# D1b Play-off Semi-Final - Doylestown 134 Norfolk Blues 0

After a fantastic showing in the regular season, the D2 side earned a spot in the Mid Atlantic Conference Playoffs. Unfortunately, due to recent rule changes governing the number of D1 matches that D2 players may participate in, along with some conflicts at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, several players were unable to travel.

Though light on numbers, the squad came together with players starting in new positions and were able to field a side. Alas, their arrival in this case was a formality, as top-seeded Doylestown put their foot on the gas early and never let up.

With their season complete, the D2 can be proud of what they accomplished in the inaugural D1B year and focus now on continuing the D1 playoff run. Great season, Blues!

Final Score: Norfolk 0 Doylestown 134

## High School Rugby



On Saturday, the High School boys played their last home match of the season against Benedictine College. Although in our own neighborhood, commitments with prom and the Norfolk Tattoo Festival made several players unavailable, and the squad turned up with only 17 to play.

The match-up started at a great pace, with a 10 minute period of dominance by the Baby Blues, ending with a beautifully constructed try at the end of the line. Unfortunately, the great start would not be enough for the boys to hang on. Lack of discipline led to costly errors, which allowed Benedictine two easy tries. Despite only being down 14-10 at the half, Norfolk were unable to regain control.

Fatigue was evident amongst the depleted squad, and with no more fresh legs to take the field, the boys conceded two more tries.

The boys have their final match of the season this week in Richmond. Still a very young club in only its third year; excited for what these blokes can achieve!



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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                 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 09-Sep-17    | <b>Norfolk Blues</b>           | <b>43</b> | Potomac Exiles       | 10        | <b>W FF</b>         |
| 16-Sep-17    | Schuylkill 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         | L 22 - 50           |
| 14-Oct-17    | Baltimore-Chesapeake           | 5         | <b>Norfolk Blues</b> | <b>45</b> | L 37 - 17           |
| 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> | L 47 - 21           |
| 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>  | L 51 - 10           |
| 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>           | <b>76</b> | Baltimore-Chesapeake | 15        | <b>W 57 - 24</b>    |
| 07-Apr-18    | <b>Norfolk Blues</b>           | <b>69</b> | Schuylkill River     | 19        | L 13 - 20           |
| 14-Apr-18    | Pittsburgh                     | 16        | <b>Norfolk Blues</b> | <b>39</b> | No                  |
| 21-Apr-18    | <b>Norfolk Blues</b>           | <b>39</b> | Rocky Gorge          | 35        | <b>W 50 - 36</b>    |
| 28-Apr-18    | <b>Norfolk Blues</b>           | <b>48</b> | Potomac Exiles       | 5         | <b>D1 Play-off</b>  |
|              | Doylestown                     | 134       | <b>Norfolk Blues</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>D2 Play-off</b>  |
| 05-May-18    | <b>Norfolk Blues</b>           |           | Rocky Gorge          |           | <b>MAC D1 Final</b> |
| 19/20 May 18 | <b>USA Eastern Regionals</b>   |           |                      |           | <b>Obetz OH</b>     |
| 02/03 Jun 18 | <b>USA Rugby Championships</b> |           |                      |           | <b>Glendale CO</b>  |

## Blues HS 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    | 27        | <b>Norfolk Blues</b>     | <b>17</b> |
| 14-Apr-18 | <b>Norfolk Blues</b> | <b>19</b> | Newport News             | 39        |
| 28-Apr-18 | <b>Norfolk Blues</b> | <b>10</b> | Benedictine College Prep | 24        |
| 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”.