



# The Bluesletter

Wednesday 18 April 2018

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## 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.

## D1 - Pittsburgh Harlequins 16 Norfolk Blues 39

With number 1 and 3 seeds still on the line, both teams showed up Saturday in Pittsburgh with one thing in mind: The Win. The Blues arrived to the pitch greeted with some warm and muggy weather near 80 degrees. As soon as the kickoff, it was evident this was not the same team faced only a few weeks ago. Pittsburgh came out hard on both sides of the ball which led to a very back and forth first half, with a fair number of turnovers for both teams. Nearing the 20 minute mark a quick tap by **Dutch Jones** put the first points on the board putting the Blues up 5 - 0. Not to be outdone, the Pittsburgh fullback showed his abilities and leveled the score 5 - 5 soon after. The rest of the first half continued the back and forth defensive stand. Just shy of the half Pittsburgh slotted a long range penalty kick to take the lead 8 - 5.

At the break the Blues made some serious mindset changes that would prove to make all the difference.

The second half appeared to start the same as the first with another penalty kick to Pittsburgh pushing the score 11 - 5. However, the Blues found their footing and began to dominate the field. Two tries in quick succession by **Nick Sandoval** and **Adam Brubaker** came about from some hard fought yards by the forwards and great ball movement by the backs gave the Blues a lead they wouldn't relinquish, 11 - 15. Sensing their game slipping, Pittsburgh put on a solid effort for the next 20 minutes, but to no avail, they simply could not manage to break through to the try line. Soon the Blues went down to 14 players as **Nick Sandoval** was sent for a timeout due to an interesting sequence of events where an offside Pittsburgh player made an intercept and long break; no whistle was called for 60 meters until **Nick** made the try saving tackle, but was binned for not wrapping, and the ball was given back to the Blues 60 metres back upfield? From the restart the Blues made use of the penalty with some excellent back play leading to a second try on the day for **Dutch Jones**, extending the lead 11 - 20. From the ensuing kick-off the Blues once again showed that teamwork really does make the dream work, with another quick team try, dotted down by **Adam Brubaker** to give him #2 on the day. Blues up 11 - 25. By now the heat had shown it was taking its toll on Pittsburgh, using most of their forward subs. From the sidelines it was clear the Blues had found their swagger and began to have a bit of fun with the ball. On another set of phases, **Jeff Jefferson** found himself in possession of the ball some 20 metres out, but clearly affected by playing at altitude and scoured the field to see no one playing back gave an inspired grubber through the line to be dotted down by **Anthony Kowalski** and give the Blues a commanding 11 - 32 lead. Pittsburgh dug deep and managed to turn the ball over and push their way down the field for a try to bring it to 16 - 32, but it was too little too late. The Blues managed to turn the ball over on the kick-off and work some good phase play down the pitch. With no time left on the clock **Adam Brubaker** made quite a run through Pittsburgh's defence, losing a

boot in the process to be stopped just shy of the try line. It's a good thing we have so many one handed offloads in tackles practice because there was a great one to **Ben McDougall** who went in for the final try of the game; Blues winning 16 - 39.

Man of the match to **Dylan Powell** who had a fantastic day putting on a defensive clinic for everyone to see.

## High School Rugby

The Norfolk High School team took on Newport News at Lafayette Park on Saturday. These teams are guaranteed to have a lot of hard hits and aggressive play when they face each other. It was Newport News on the winning end of this one with a score of 39-19. Scorers for the Blues were **Josh Diaz**, **Augustin Castillo**, and **Demonte' Williams** (tries), **Côme du Cluzel** provided two conversions. The score was not really representative of the tough, physical play in the loose provided by our forwards and hard running by the backs. If not for some poor tackling and being a little too passive in our defence, we probably could of pulled off a win here. The good news is there are plenty of things to build on and we know that we have to work on some basic defensive fundamentals.

Newport News has a few New Zealanders playing with them that are here with military parents. The after-match social was held at University Pizza.

It was suggested we select a "Man-of-the-Match" by allowing the opposing players to vote.

Newport News selected **Josh Diaz** (#3) for his tough play in the loose and set pieces. Josh is a new player this year but showing tremendous improvement and a lot of promise.

Next up is the Maryland Exiles tournament in DC this coming weekend followed by a home match vs. Benedictine on April 28th.

## Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, does it get any bigger?

This Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, Lafayette will be the place to be! Norfolk Storm start the day off followed by our D2 Play-off qualified Blues versus Rocky Gorge, and then the BIG ONE; unbeaten Rocky Gorge versus the Blues with the winner crowned end of normal season Champions! And taking the number 1 seed in the play-offs.

If you have nothing on this weekend, please come out to support the Blues, bring a friend, your granny, your girlfriend (or boyfriend, Royal Navy), everyone is welcome, please pass the word. There is nothing better than to play in-front of a crowd, be the BLUES 16<sup>th</sup> 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](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	<b>X</b>	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>		Rocky Gorge		<b>Yes</b>
28-Apr-18	<b>MAC D1 Play-off - opponent TBD</b>				<b>Home</b>
	<b>D1B Play-off - opponent TBD</b>				<b>TBD</b>
05-May-18	<b>MAC D1 Championship</b>			<b>Moven Park, Leesburg</b>	
19/20 May 18	<b>USA Eastern Regionals</b>			<b>Fortress Obetz OH</b>	
02/03 Jun 18	<b>USA Rugby Championships</b>			<b>Glendale CO</b>	

**\*\*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	<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	Benedictine College Prep		<b>Norfolk Blues</b>	
05-May-18	<b>Norfolk Blues</b>		Springfield-West End	

## 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”.