



The Bluesletter

Wednesday 20th September 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.

D1b - Schuylkill River 15 Norfolk Blues 41

An 1100 hours kick-off in Philadelphia meant that those who didn't drive up the night before had a very early start, so full kudos to the B side for all being on-time for warm-ups. It was nothing short of "scorchio" in the City of Brotherly Love and the boys were quickly into the game with the youthful **Chris Porter** pulling the strings at outside half. Early on, running repairs were made to both **Robb Parsons** (blood) and **Dylan Powell** (dead leg); but as it was a bare XV, on two or three occasions the team were down to 13 men at various times. River opened the scoring with an unconverted try, but the Blues replied with a penalty from **Beau Brodtmann** closely followed by a



try from **Dylan Powell** with **Brodtmann** converting and adding his second penalty soon after that. **Beau** scored with a long run, **Andrew Bray** drop kicking the conversion while he received oxygen; **Dylan Powell** added his second try of the game with **Beau** back on duty with the successful conversion. **Robb Parsons** scored with a great break and **Nick Frantz** bagged the Blues last try of the day, and his first for the Club, both converted.



Shayne Wayland and **Demonta Williams** made debuts for the Men's side after graduating from the Blues High School program; "D" played the full 80 minutes at tight head and made some aggressive in-roads with ball in hand and Shayne, on the wing, was just brought down short of scoring

on one occasion, good job guys!

Beau Brodtmann picked up the Man of the Match award with both **Dylan Powell** and **TJ Holloman** receiving a honourable mention.

Final Score: Schuylkill River 15 Norfolk Blues 41

Tries: Powell (2), Brodtmann, Parsons and Frantz Cons: Brodtmann 3 (from 3) and Bray 2 (from 2)

Pens: Brodtmann 2 (from 2)

D1 - Schuylkill River 28 Norfolk Blues 29

Reduced to 14 men within the first 10 minutes, Schuylkill pushed the Blues all the way to the final minute in an end to end encounter played in blistering heat. The hosts had their fullback red carded for throwing a flurry of missed punches at **Matt Ball** after already been seen, and unpunished for, clouting a prone **Ben McDougall** in the back the head, obviously he didn't have the holiday of a lifetime in NZ! The Blues scored early with **Ben** going airborne to dot down in the corner and a great rip out of the tackle by **Sam Johnson** saw him run in the second try from a full 40 metres out. The Blues were really under the pump at the set-piece, losing both lineout and scrum ball, but the boys found plenty of gaps with some hard running and good



support interplay and in the park through knock-ons and blown opportunities.

The second half it was more of the same, River really turning the screw at scrum time, however the Blues got some solid position and territory with an ever improving driving maul providing the backs the platform needed to attack from. The Blues scored first with **Matt Holsopple** breaking some tackles in the 22 and getting over the line. **Jake Humphries** knocked over a penalty and at 50 minutes the Blues were sitting pretty at 22-0. River then emptied their bench, putting on a whole front row and fresh legs all over and they hit the game running forcing the boys to defend for long periods of time, after a couple of penalties the cracks started to appear and River scored three converted tries. The only substitutes we



had were boys who had just played 80 minutes for the B-side, but those who came into the game worked hard and did a job. At 75 minutes, and against an ever growing tide of pressure, the Blues broke out of the 22 with a swift move to the left from a lineout, **Justin Menke** getting up to the 10 with a good break up the wing where he offloaded to the supporting **McDougall** who kicked through twice before the ball bounced up and he went under the posts for the match winning score with 2 minutes to go. Unfortunately, straight from the KO, River were knocking on the door and after holding up twice over the line they scored with the last play of the game, giving them the bonus point for tries scored and points in defeat.

Man of the Match went to **Ben McDougall** with **Matt Holsopple** and **Matt Ball** getting a honourable mention.

Final Score: Schuykill River 28 Norfolk Blues 29

Tries: McDougall (2), Johnson and Holsopple Cons: Humphries 3 (from 4) Pens: Humphries 1 (from 1)

Aviva Premiership – Newcastle Falcons 7 Saracens 29



Those who didn't travel back to the "757" managed to get out to Talen Energy Stadium, home of the Philadelphia MLS side to watch the Aviva Premiership game between the Newcastle Falcons and the star studded Saracens. Following our double header it was a 40 minute turnaround to get back to the hotel, shower and back to the social to board the school bus River had organised to the stadium, fortunately there was quite a bit of beverage provided for the 45 minute trip. Only 6,500 watched the game, which was littered with knock-ons, as the result of humidity generated from the temperature that day. The first try was scored by Saracens' USA Eagle **Chris Wyles** with that score cancelled out by Fijian International **Veroniki Gonova**; in the second half Sarries ran out winners with a penalty try and 3 more penalties from the boot of **Owen Farrell** who was 100% on the day. The Blues then enjoyed a quiet night in a local hostelry, re-hydrating with some much needed fluids and getting an early night before returning home Sunday.



BIG Blue World:

Blues Old Boys Keith Wright and Steve Link were looking very dapper out in Aspen. The boys were playing in the 50th Aspen Ruggerfest last weekend, others in attendance, and notable absentees to the Schuylkill double-header were Barney Dardin and Fred Wintermantel.



Old Boy dues:

So far: Alex Kink, Chris Cowan , Tim Trivette, John Ellis, Jamie Newnham, Keith Wright, Jack Russell, Fred Wintermantel, Mike Herron, Danny Roach and Matt Seaton. Have paid their dues for the Season, The Blues thank you for your ongoing support.

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

You can sign-up to join our "[Yahoo Email Group](#)" and receive email updates including The Bluesletter.

Fixtures for 2017/18 Season:

(subject to change, KO's TBC)

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		Norfolk Blues		No
30-Sep-17	Norfolk Blues		Raleigh		No
07-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues		Rocky Gorge		Yes
14-Oct-17	Baltimore-Chesapeake		Norfolk Blues		Yes
21-Oct-17	Norfolk Blues		Washington Irish		No
04-Nov-17	Rocky Gorge		Norfolk Blues		Yes
11-Nov-17	Potomac Exiles		Norfolk Blues		Yes
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 sorting your calendar now! If you are unavailable, let the selectors/coach know, put the dates you will be missing on the Facebook page, your coaching staff are old and infirm and will forget****

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".