



# The Bluesletter

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 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.

## Abigail Hagen



As you are aware there has been a tragic loss to our Blues family. On returning to Norfolk following a few weeks in their hometown in Nebraska, Eric Hagen and his family were involved in a road traffic accident where Eric's wife, Abigail, lost her life.

Eric is currently in his 3rd season with Norfolk, and Abigail attended all of Eric's home games, and most away games along with their two young boys, Eli (3) and Henry (1), sporting their "Daddy's fan club" shirts - a true testament to Abigail.

All at the Blues know that Eric and Abigail are two of the nicest people in the world, and that we are extremely lucky to have the Hagen's as a part of our family.

On October 21st, the Norfolk Blues were scheduled to hold their Annual "Blues Go Pink" for Breast Cancer Awareness, but we are going to devote the day, and the match, to Abby.

Her favourite color was Pink, and we encourage everyone to wear pink in honour of her, the Blues will wear their pink jerseys.

We will be selling merchandise, holding a 50/50 raffle and accepting donations for Eli and Henry's college funds. Norfolk Storm kick-off at 1100hrs to start the day with Norfolk Blues vs Washington Irish D1 at 1300hrs and ODU Rugby kick-off at 1500.

Whether you're an Old Boy, current player or fan of the game, let's get together to show support for the Hagen family.

## D2 - Baltimore-Chesapeake 37 Norfolk Blues 17

On Saturday the Blues travelled North to face off with Baltimore-Chesapeake; the Blues started strongly and scored a try through **David Paradiso**. B-C replied with a penalty kick to make the score 5-3. The Blues scored another try in the 1<sup>st</sup> half with prop **Matt Deanda** scoring in the corner. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half B-C brought on some fresh legs and put the Blues under pressure. This resulted in three converted tries and another penalty kick to give the home team a 37-10 advantage. The Blues continued to play their open style and pulled back a score with a converted try from lock forward **Ryan "Lurch" Carden** to end the match 37-17. The D2 side put in a strong effort traveling with only 15 players, "retired" Coach Porter having to step back into the front row at tight head and others having to play out of position. **Trey Zinke**, back from deployment, put in a strong effort in both attack and defence and earned **Man of the Match** with **TJ Holloman**, **Cecil Wilson** and **Matt Deanda** also putting in strong performances.



Final Score: Baltimore Chesapeake 37 Norfolk Blues 17

Tries: Paradiso, Deanda and Carden Cons: Zinke 1 Pens: None

# D1 - Baltimore-Chesapeake 5 Norfolk Blues 45

The D1 match started with the Blues putting the pedal down on attack and following a B-C knock-on from the kickoff, the Blues let their presence be known with a strong scrum unleashing the Blues backline. The ball was worked down the line and wing **Adam Brubaker** made a strong run to the tryline to put the Blues on the board. After conceding two penalties, B-C got to the Blues 5 metre line and the boys from Baltimore mauled one over to tie the score. For next 30 minutes the Blues controlled the match and put in three more tries, **Adam** dotted down for his double while **Dutch Jones** and **Justin Menke** bagged a pie a piece; with **Jake Humphrey** converting all 3 to take the score out to 26-5. **Jimmy Smith** earned a 10 minute spell on the naughty step for the Blues repeated infringements and B-C took advantage of this, camping out inside the Blues 22, but the defence was not about to let B-C put any more points on the board. The forwards turned back everything the B-C pack threw at them and when they passed it out to their backs the attack was smothered. B-C eventually conceded a penalty which was kicked to touch to end the half up by 19.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started out the way the 1<sup>st</sup> half ended with B-C inside the Blues 22, and as soon as the Blues went back to their full compliment of 15 then **Matt Holsopple** had 10 minutes in the bin, but once again the Blues forwards took everything B-C had to offer and turned them away. The Blues backs smothered the BC attack when the ball came out and earned a turn-over and that was the last time B-C made any real threat to our line. The Blues scored three more tries with a **Doc Irely** double and one from **Fred Wintermantel**; **Jake** converting 2 from 3 to make the final score 45-5. It was the most dominant performance of the year with the Blues firing on all cylinders. **Doc Irely** earned **Man of the Match** with **Ben McDougall** and **Fred Wintermantel** also putting in big efforts. The Blues now sit on top of D1 alongside Rocky Gorge and look to continue winning ways this weekend against Washington Irish at Lafayette Park.



**Final Score: Baltimore-Chesapeake 5 Norfolk Blues 45**

**Tries: Brubaker (2), Jones, Menke, Irely (2) and Wintermantel Cons: Humphrey 5 (from 7) Pens: None**



# Norfolk Blues Youth Rugby:

Next session is this Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October at 1100 at Lafayette, keep spreading the word!

**Congratulations** to Blues High Schools player Damien Weist who has been invited to attend the EIRA (Eagle Impact Rugby Academy), great news!



## 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.

**norfolkbluesrhc** on Instagram and Twitter.

Our website is at [www.bluesrugby.org](http://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	Postponed
14-Oct-17	Baltimore-Chesapeake	5	Norfolk Blues	45	L 37 - 17
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	<b>MAC Championship</b>				
18-May-18	<b>USA Eastern Regionals</b>				
02-Jun-18	<b>USA Rugby Championships</b>				

**\*\*Start sorting your calendar 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".