

# The Old Blue Rugby Football Club

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## THE BULL SNORTS

"To the victors go the spoils"

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Friday April 28th 2023

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# Old Blue Heads to the Atlantic Super Regional D1 Playoff This Saturday



**SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH, 4PM EST**

**LIVE STREAM AVAILABLE  
GLOVER PARK, GLEN ALLEN, VA**

It's been a really exciting couple of months and Old Blue have booked their ticket to Richmond, VA to play the Mid Atlantic Champion Rocky Gorge in a USA Club Rugby Division 1 Quarterfinal.

Old Blue will look to settle the score after Rocky Gorge won a close preseason exhibition match on March 4th at Van Cortlandt Park, 7 tries to 5.

Since that preseason loss, we've put together a very impressive 6 wins in a row against some very tough opposition.

The campaign got back on track the week after the Rocky Gorge match when we played Potomac Exiles on March 11th in the Baker Field Bubble, winning pretty comprehensively 38-7, with several stand out performances, most of all from captain Monate Akuei.

The following Saturday saw another huge win, this time Old Blue's D3 squad taking on NYAC B side, and absolutely dismantling them 81-12 on Saturday March 18th. Rich Coppo writes: "1. The 81 pts IS Most OB B ever scored vs filthy AC B. 2. Ergo, greatest Margin of Victory vs filthy AC B: 69 pts."

The following day, Old Blue's D1 side played Mystic River at Mt. Vernon Memorial Stadium and came out comfortable victors 25-5, with a standout performance from Welsh fly half Ollie Jenner scoring an impressive try and taking control of the match.

The boys then traveled to West Point to take on a very tough and physical Army team, A side winning on the day 41-7, but the B side struggled for numbers and lost 31-12. It was great to see Superblue Ed Simpson at the match supporting the Old Blue and his son Jack, who plays front row for the Cadets.

Old Blue then traveled to Travers Island and completed the double over NYAC, winning a close one 24-20, and the Bs were also victorious in a shortened game 22-11. The following weekend, we played the noisy neighbors White Plains RFC in Greenwich, CT winning 26-12 to finish 3-0 in our Spring D1 matches.

These 3 league victories put us in pole position in the Northeast Division 1 and earned us a playoff berth at the Atlantic Super Regional in Richmond, VA, and a rematch against Rocky Gorge.

It's all to play for this weekend, with the winner advancing to the USA Club Nationals Final 4 on June 2nd and 4th in St. Louis, MO.

LET'S GO OLD BLUE!



**FINAL SCORES**

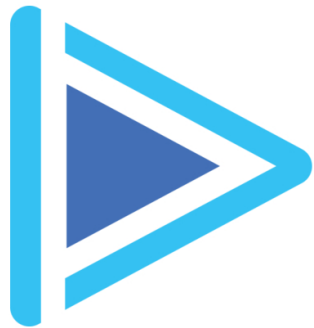
	<b>47 - 15</b>	
	<b>31 - 38</b>	

**Top row:** Trevor Cassidy, Simon Maisuradze, Jose Henriquez, Diego Maquieira, Ollie Jenner, James Sheridan, Cesar Arango, Leri Maisuradze, Dmontae Noble, Brock Duncan, Khalil Morris, Sondai Adjei, Mike St Claire, Ulises Kevelier, Jeremy Hanson  
**Middle row:** Kyle Granby, Chris Vakasisikakala, Julian Caceres, Aki Raymond, Gabe Delos Santos, Luis Carpio, Yacouba Traore, Maurice Diong, Kevin Braithwaite  
**Seated:** Nicalus Franklyn and Joaquin Del Olmo

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# Meet the Old Blue Squad Headed to Nationals

1. Dejon Taylor		The Fresh Prince of Glen Cove, Dejon “DJ” Taylor is a physical loosehead prop that has cemented his place in the starting squad with his tough tackling and carries. You can expect some big hits from him this weekend.
2. Diego Maquieira		Diego is a very experienced hooker, having won a national championship with Mystic River and has played professionally for Rugby New York in the 2021 season. Fun fact he’s the club VP and was named after a certain Argentine footballing legend.
3. James Sheridan		One of the longest serving members of the current squad, Jimmy “Traps” Sheridan is one of the first names on the team sheet, he’s a rock at tighthead prop and an excellent scrummager, and will give everything he’s got.





<p>4. Joaquin del Olmo</p>		<p>El Oso Argentino (The Argentine Bear), Joaquin returns to NYC from Buenos Aires this Spring and has had a brilliant campaign. He can cover the lock position and loose forward. He loves the Old Blue so much he has the crest tattooed on his chest.</p>
<p>5. Maurice Diong</p>		<p>Maurice Diong, aka “Mr Chocolate Silk” has put in stellar performances last fall and this Spring, playing a relatively new position at lock, and putting in man of the match performances against Buffalo, tackling everything, all the while dry fasting for Ramadan.</p>
<p>6. Anthony Russo</p>		<p>Anthony Russo, aka Tony, is a Long Island based player, joined the Old Blue last year and has cemented his place in the starting XV, initially at center and most recently at loose forward. Also became a Dad this year!</p>
<p>7. Adrian Newell</p>		<p>Adrian Newell, aka A-train, has been a regular in the team for the past 3 years, playing at loose forward. He’s a very gifted tackler and skilled in loose play. He also coaches Fordham Prep Rugby.</p>




<p>8. Chris Vakasisikakala</p>		<p>Chris Vakasisikakala, the eldest of 3 brothers who are also Old Blues, is a Fijian wizard who will play at 8 this weekend. He is usually a loose forward, but can also cover lock and center when needed.</p>
<p>9. Nicalus Franklyn</p>		<p>Nic Franklyn has showcased his incredible talent at scrum half this past Spring, having played in the centers in prior campaigns. He is returning from a very serious arm injury over the past summer that caused him to miss out on the 7s Nationals tournament, and he has put in some serious work to recover and nail his spot in the starting XV.</p>
<p>10. Ollie Jenner</p>		<p>A brilliant Welsh fly half and an accomplished bioengineer, Ollie has led the offense by forging a key halfback partnership with Nic this Spring term. Good things happen when Ollie gets the ball and spots a gap.</p>
<p>11. Julian Caceres</p>		<p>Julian has been playing rugby for only 2 years and joined us from Union RFC and the Rugby New York Academy. He has exceptional pace and agility and has scored some great tries this Spring. Also a very good place kicker. Keep your eyes out for this player.</p>

<p>12. Kyle Granby</p>		<p>Kyle Granby, aka KG, once a NYAC and WP player, but we won't hold that against him as we know he has Old Blue first in his heart. He has exceptional ability and can play all across the backline. He is also the founder and president of Roots Rugby and father of three.</p>
<p>13. Michael StClaire</p>		<p>Mike StClaire, aka Milkshake Mike, is one of the longest serving members of the squad. He's a huge presence in the midfield, is rock solid in defense and can ball out. Wait til he powers up. Also became a Dad this year!</p>
<p>14. Akinola Raymond</p>		<p>Aki rejoins the team this Spring, having last played for the club as a 7s Nationals Finalist last August. He's an electric winger, very agile and with pace to burn. As a former Rocky Gorge player, this game has a personal element for him.</p>
<p>15. Kevin Braithwaite</p>		<p>Kevin Braithwaite has shined at fullback this Spring, putting together some incredible performances and scoring some great tries, especially against White Plains. He can cover all across the backline including scrumhalf, outside center, and wing.</p>
<p>16. Jahquar Williams</p>		<p>Jahquar Williams continues to impress and grow as an Old Blue player, putting in a man of the match performance against White Plains scoring a beautiful try. He can throw in the lineout and cover both prop positions.</p>

<p>17. Brock Duncan</p>	 A portrait of Brock Duncan, a man with a beard and short hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue and black rugby jersey with "vbrick" and "OLD BLUE" logos.	<p>New to Old Blue this Spring, Brock Duncan has played for a few clubs in NY and has found a home with us. He's a physically commanding presence and a talented scrummager, and will make a huge impact from the bench.</p>
<p>18. Cesar Arango Osorio</p>	 An action shot of Cesar Arango Osorio running with the ball. He is wearing a dark blue and black rugby jersey with "vbrick" and "OLD BLUE" logos.	<p>Cesar Arango, aka the Columbian bowling ball (the photo to the left just precedes a glorious try against WP). Cesar has played with the club for several years now and is one of the toughest guys to tackle. Cannonball is his callsign.</p>
<p>19. William Whiteside</p>	 An action shot of William Whiteside kneeling on the grass. He is wearing a white and black rugby jersey with "vbrick" and "OLD BLUE" logos.	<p>William Whiteside, aka Bill, was a big part of our fall ARP campaign and rejoins the squad for the playoff weekend. Bill graduated from Lindenwood last Spring and played for the USA Hawks in South America over the past several months. He is currently contracted to play with the Ironworkers, and was on the bench last weekend against the Sabercats. Only a matter of time before he makes his MLR debut.</p>

<p>20. Luke Watts</p>		<p>Luke Watts is one of the most experienced members of the squad and a seasoned international for Malta, with close to 50 caps for his country. He bagged a try in his swan song cap for Malta last month. It's great to have him back from injury for the business end of the season.</p>
<p>21. Khalil Morris</p>		<p>Khalil Morris, aka K1, is a capped international for Turks and Caicos, and a physical loose forward that can get around the field and make a huge impact on the game.</p>
<p>22. Ulises Kevelier</p>		<p>Ulises Kevelier, aka Papi, has been with the club for over 10 years and has played a key part in our fall and spring campaigns, playing in all 9 league matches. He plays on the wing and can cover the centers as well.</p>
<p>23. Steve Walier</p>		<p>Steve Walier, son of Jim Walier and a second generation Old Blue. Steve has played for the team now for over a year and is getting better and better. After many impressive performances for the D3 side this past fall, he has earned his call up to the 1st team this Spring.</p>

<p>24. John Santiago</p>		<p>John Santiago, aka Santi, has played a key part in our fall and spring seasons. He has excellent throwing skills and can command the lineout, and is versatile in loose play.</p>
<p>25. Wolfgang Meijas</p>		<p>Wolfgang Meijas, also a second generation Old Blue whose dad is Rob Meijas, rejoined the club this year after finishing his schooling at Iona college, where he excelled as a loose forward and prop. He has put in some great performances to earn his spot in the squad, and can cover the prop positions.</p>
<p>26. Zephaniah Tasanangura</p>		<p>Zephaniah Tasanangura, or Zeph for short, is a Zimbabwean born player attending college in New Jersey. He's a young and exciting talent, and has played well with us at lock and loose forward.</p>
<p>27. Yacouba Traore</p>		<p>Yacouba Traore has shone in his 2nd season as an Old Blue. He played with the D3 squad this past fall and has earned his way to a first team spot, putting in some exceptional performances this Spring, he always seems to score a try every time he plays.</p>

<p>Head Coach Sam Windsor</p>		<p>Sam Windsor has been an impressive coach since he joined the club last August. He's a full time professional rugby player with the New York Ironworkers as their fly half, and leads our training sessions and matches around his playing commitments. You couldn't ask for a better man at the helm.</p>
<p>Forwards Coach Trevor Cassidy</p>		<p>Trevor Cassidy continues to shine as a forwards coach and getting the best performances from our team on match days. He has a decade of experience with the Old Blue and was also a professional player with Rugby New York and the USA Eagles.</p>
<p>Forwards Coach Simon Maisuradze</p>		<p>We are lucky to have a very experienced scrum coach, Simon Maisuradze. He has 33 caps for the country of Georgia at hooker, and has improved our set piece tremendously.</p>

<p>D3 Coach Gary Heavner</p>		<p>A man that needs no introduction, Gary Heavner is involved in yet another Old Blue playoff campaign. He's the recipient of the Joe Cody award in 2019 in recognition for his contributions to the club, and he keeps on giving. Gary coaches the D3 side and will be the Women's 7s director this summer.</p>
<p>D3 Coach Levan Shaorshadze</p>		<p>The last time he played in a USA Rugby playoff, Levan was yellow carded in the 72nd minute in a D3 round of 16 match, only to go for a cheeky smoke during his sin bin. He brings over two decades of experience with the Old Blue.</p>

**Monate Akuei signs with Rugby New York - [Monate's Incredible Story](#)**





**Caption: Monate Akuei with OB Foundation Chairman Brian Murphy and OB Head Coach Sam Windsor after his first MLR Cap against DC Old Glory**

# IRONWORKERS



1. SAM DAVIES
2. DYLAN FAWSITT
3. KALEB GEIGER
4. NATE BRAKELEY (C)
5. HAMISH DALZELL
6. BRAD TUCKER
7. MONATE AKUEI
8. KARA PRYOR
9. CONOR MCMANUS
10. JASON EMERY
11. QUINN NGAWATI
12. TEI WALDEN
13. FAASIU FUATAI
14. ANDREW COE
15. SAM WINDSOR
  
16. DAQUAN PERRY
17. ANTHONY PARRY
18. ENRIQUE QUINTEROS
19. CHARLIE HEWITT
20. WILLIAM WHITESIDE
21. CRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ
22. NICK FEAKES
23. BROOKLYN HARDAKER



#NYHOU MLR2023 RND10

There were 8 Old Blues in the New York Ironworkers lineup last Sunday - club legend Dylan "The Butcher" Fawsitt, Captain Monate Akuei, Conor McManus, Head Coach Sam Windsor, DaQuan Perry, William Whiteside, Cristian Rodrigues, and Brooklyn Hardaker. Sam Windsor pictured

Rich Coppo reports: Old Blue Eagle 7s and XV's Nate Augspurger of the MLR San Diego Legion has been selected to the MLR weekly First XV at wing in 6 of the first 9 weeks of Season 6 competition!

Nate will hit 50 caps in MLR this Sunday!

