**Boston Irish Wolfhounds @ South Shore Anchors, November 11th, 2017**

The 6-2 Wolfhounds traveled to Randolph for their final game of the season. The boys expected from the 4-4 Anchors, who always put up a good fight at home. The game kicked off on a bitterly cold Saturday, with a good crowd including a victorious Greyhounds squad watching from the sidelines. The Wolfhounds ultimately prevailed 38-14 in a sloppy but gritty performance to finish the season 7-2.

The Hounds took control from the opening kickoff, pressuring with the series of mauls before prop Ed Guitton ran a great line off a flanker Paul Taylor pass from a ruck to stroll through untouched from 15 metres out, with scrumhalf Lucas Pialat (4/6 on the day) converting. Shortly thereafter wing Ronan Griffin broke through for what looked like a sure breakaway try, but grounded the ball 5 m short due to poor markings. Wolfhounds maintained position as the rest of the team belatedly hustled up the bitch, and flanker Alex Verdaguer took advantage of a 5 on 2 overlap to walk through 2 phases later.

Despite the Irish advantage, the South Shore anchors fought their way back into the match behind a pack of big, hard-running forwards. Wolfhounds struggled to maintain position as loose passes and unguarded rucks led to turnovers, and South Shore barged over 21 minutes in to bring the score to 14-7. The score remained there for most of the half, with Dave Kronenberg replacing Sean Moran who came off with an ankle injury after 26 minutes. The Hounds ended the half with a flourish, with wing Mark Kavanagh scoring past multiple tacklers from the 22 and wing Ronan Griffin intercepting a pass for 7 to go into the halftime oranges 26-7.

South Shore came out firing in the 2nd half, again controlling possession. The Wolfhounds defended stoutly but could not keep their hands on the ball. South Shore crashed over on another forward surge 55 minutes in to make it 26-14. Wolfhounds subs in the front row and backline kept momentum, but there were no scores until the 76th minute when replacement scrumhalf Sam Grant dived over after spotting a gap at a rock. Two minutes later replacement wing Henry Wiley notched a highlight-real try, kicking ahead before soccer kicking the ball to himself inside the tryline for a final score of 38-14.

The bonus point victory leaves the Wolfhounds 7-2 on the season, and 3rd in NERFU D2. They will play 2nd seed Mystic Barbarians away in the first round of the New England playoffs in late April. We hope to see our fans at the holiday party December 2nd and back out at the Irish Cultural Center for the spring season starting in March. Thanks for your support this fall…Go Hounds!

**Wolfhounds 1st XV**

1st XV

1          Ed Guitton (vc)

2          Carrick Pell (Adam Zilcoski, 49 minutes)

3          Sean Moran (Dave Kronenberg, 26 minutes)

4          Ben Stone

5          Alex Scott

6          Alex Verdauger (Kyle Kaneb, 70 minutes)

7          Paul Taylor (C)

8          Sean Richards

9          Lucas Pialat (Sam Grant, 76 minutes)

10        Ian Heanue

11        Mark Kavanagh

12        Keith Keller

13        Tyler Ierardi (Henry Wiley, 53 minutes)

14        Ronan Griffin (Chip Broderick, 78 minutes)

15        Paddy Meenan (Peter Lupton, 56 minutes

 *Subs*

16        Adam Zilcoski

17 Dave Kronenberg

18        Kyle Kaneb

19        Brian Toner

20 Peter Lupton

21        Sam Grant

22        Chip Broderick

23        Henry Wiley

**Tries:** Ed Guitton, Alex Verdauger, Mark Kavanagh, Ronan Griffin, Sam Grant, Henry Wiley

**Conversions**: Lucas Pialat 4

**Penalties**: Lucas Pialat