**Wolfhounds @ Worcester RFC, October 14th, 2017**

The Wolfhounds traveled to Worcester this Saturday to take on their 3-1 NERFU rivals. After 4 fairly comprehensive wins in which the Hounds outscored their opponents by a cumulative 30 tries to 5, the boys knew they’d be facing a sterner test. The match, unfortunately, did not disappoint, as the Irish took their first loss of the season 12-13.

Before kickoff the boys were treated to a Greyhounds victory over Worcester Old Boys in the curtain raiser. The Hounds took that energy into the opening kickoff, forcing a turnover and pinning Worcester against their line. Worcester did well to deflect several determined mauls from inside the 10 m line, but after another penalty for collapsing the maul scrumhalf Lucas Pialet spotted a gap and sneaked over for a quick-tap try.

Worcester responded after the kickoff, blowing up a Wolfhounds ruck to win a penalty, taking the points to bring the score to 7-3. Wolfhounds pressured the ensuing kickoff, forcing another turnover. A few phases later flanker Alex Verdaguer burst through a couple tacks before offloading to center Keith Keller for a try down the blindside and a 12-3 margin. 15 minutes in the Wolfhounds were feeling confident, but that was the last points the boys would score. Over the rest of the half a series of penalties or soft turnovers kept the Wolfhounds pinned against their line. Worcester hammered at the line with forward drives, but were repelled each time by a determined Wolfhounds forwards’ defense. The half ended with the Wolfhounds energized by their defensive stand, but weighed down by a 10-4 penalty count against.

Unfortunately, after the half the game slowly slipped away from the Wolfhounds, with frustrations mounting as they were unable to convert their forward dominance and rarely-troubled defense into points. Despite turning over about half of Worcester’s lineouts and repeatedly driving back their scrum, penalties prevented the Wolfhounds from generating any continuity or momentum. The Wolfhounds defense finally cracked in the 53rd minute, when the Worcester centers broke a pair of tackles to dive over and narrow the gap to 12-10. In approximately the 70th minute Worcester converted a penalty given after a series of drives at the line to take a 13-12 lead. The Wolfhounds repeatedly pressed for the winning score in the last 10 minutes, but were undone by tough calls for a forward pass and obstruction. Wolfhounds take their first loss of the season, knowing they have to raise their game and improve their discipline to defeat Newport and Mystic River.

Prop Sean Moran man of the match after 70 minutes (after a yellow card) of uncompromising hits and runs.

The Irish subs, fresh players, and few enterprising Greyhounds shook off the 1st team’s loss to put on a great performance. The Hounds won six tries to two in game of 25-minute halves, highlighted by powerful runs from Luke Bradley, speedy work on the wing from Julian Scott, and the steady guidance of experienced campaigners Kiwa Oakes, Carrick Pell, and Mike Zizza. Hooker Jay Kolovson man of the match.

The Boston Irish Wolfhounds next travel to 4-1 Newport, playing at Fort Adams Park on October 21st.

**Wolfhounds 1st XV**

1st XV

1          Ed Guitton

2          Kieran Stokes

3          Sean Moran

4          Ben Stone (Alex Scott, 55th minute)

5          Blair Somerville

6          Alex Verdauger (vc)

7          Paul Taylor (C)

8          Sean Richards

9          Lucas Pialat

10        Sam Grant (vc)

11        Paul Rowland

12        Keith Keller (Mark Kavanagh, 50th minute)

13        Tyler Ierardi (Kiwa Oakes, 70th minute)

14        Henry Wiley

15        Paddy “better chat Paddy” Meenan

*Subs*

16        Dave Kronenberg (FR)

17        Jay Kolovson (FR)

18        Luke Bradley (FR)

19        Alex Scott

20        Kiwa Oakes

21        Julian Scott

22        Brian Toner

23        Mark Kavanagh

**Tries:** Keith Keller, Lucas Pialet

**Conversions**: Lucas Pialet