



2016 SQUAD GUIDE





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THE 2016 BLUES



FORWARDS

PROPS

Charlie Faumuina
Sione Mafileo
Nic Mayhew
Sam Prattley
Ofa Tu'ungafasi

HOOKERS

Quentin MacDonald
Matt Moulds
James Parsons

LOCKS

Josh Bekhuis
Hoani Matenga
Patrick Tuipulotu
Gerard Tuoti-Mariner

LOOSE FORWARDS

Blake Gibson
Akira Ioane
Jerome Kaino
Steven Luatua
Kara Pryor
Jack Ram

WTG

Joe Edwards
Scott Scrafton
Namatahi Waa

BACKS

HALFBACKS

Billy Guyton
Bryn Hall
Sam Nock

FIRST FIVE-EIGHTHS

Daniel Bowden
Ihaia West

MIDFIELD BACKS

George Moala
Rene Ranger

UTILITY BACKS

Matt Duffie
Matt McGahan

OUTSIDE BACKS

Rieko Ioane
Ben Lam
Tevita Li
Melani Nanai
Lolagi Visinia

WTG

TJ Faiane
Piers Francis
Michael Little
Jordan Trainor

COACHES

HEAD COACH

Tana Umaga

ASSISTANT COACHES

Alistair Rogers
Glenn Moore
Paul Feeney

COACHING TEAM

TANA UMAGA | HEAD COACH

Blues Coaching Debut: 2016

Other Coaching Roles:

RC Toulonnais

Counties Manukau Steelers

Chiefs development team

Tana Umaga is a Centurion for Wellington and the Hurricanes, and an All Black with 74 caps, which included captaincy for two years until his retirement from international rugby. He was a player-coach and head coach at Toulon in France, guiding them from second division to Top 14. He returned to New Zealand to coach at Counties Manukau, becoming head coach and taking them to ITM Cup Premiership and winning Ranfurly Shield for first time. In 2015 he was an Assistant Coach for the World Rugby Under 20 Championship-winning New Zealand Under 20 team.

ALISTAIR ROGERS | ASSISTANT COACH

Blues Coaching Debut: 2016

A Welshman who played professionally before moving into coaching in Ireland and Japan, Alistair Rogers moved to New Zealand with the Hurricanes before specialising in analysis. He has been the All Blacks Performance Analyst since 2008, specialising in opposition analysis and defence, and also developing the analysis structures and systems for the All Blacks and New Zealand Rugby. Keen to move back to coaching, Rogers will take charge of defence.

GLENN MOORE | ASSISTANT COACH

Blues Coaching Debut: 2015

A former loose forward in Mid-Canterbury before starting his coaching career with North Otago, which over-lapped with three years coaching the NZ Divisional XV, Glenn Moore moved to Otago and the Highlanders for 3 years as defensive coach and then head coach. He moved back to North Otago before taking up the role as coach of Mid-Canterbury, guiding them to the Meads Cup in the Heartland Championship in 2013. Moore moved to the Blues in 2015 as contact coach, and after standing-in as Head Coach of the Black Ferns in 2015, has been appointed to that role for three years. Moore will take charge of the forwards.

PAUL FEENEY | ASSISTANT COACH

Blues Coaching Debut: 2016

A former North Harbour player, Paul Feeney has been coaching for 15 seasons including two as assistant coach for Fiji - where he won a Rugby World Cup Sevens title - and also two years in Japan. Involved coaching in ITM Cup with North Harbour, Bay of Plenty and Auckland. Head coach of Auckland for two years, taking them to the final this year. He also won three Lochore Cups in a row with Poverty Bay in the Heartland Championship (2006-2008) and has been in coaching role with Blues Development team for three years. Feeney will take charge of the backs.

JOSH BEKHUIS

POSITION: Lock
PHYSICAL: 2.00m | 117kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 26.04.86

SUPER GAMES: 96
SUPER POINTS: 10 (2t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2009 v Brumbies in Dunedin

2015 PROVINCE: Southland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 115
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 55 (11t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2006 v North Otago in Invercargill

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Southland captain played in 14 of our 16 games in 2015 and always played to a consistently high standard. Great contributor off the field and will deservedly celebrate his 100 Super Rugby caps this season.

MATT DUFFIE

POSITION: Outside back
PHYSICAL: 1.92m | 92kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 16.08.90

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: -
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 0
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: -

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: 0
TEST DEBUT: -

THE BLUES SAY...

Matt is a huge signing for the Blues, returning to Auckland where he was a schoolboy star. He became a key player for Melbourne Storm. He is a brilliant athlete rated among the best aerial players in the NRL.

DANIEL BOWDEN

POSITION: Utility back
PHYSICAL: 1.76m | 86kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 01.04.86

SUPER GAMES: 38
SUPER POINTS: 119 (4t, 21c, 19p)
SUPER DEBUT: 2008 v Reds (for the Highlanders) in Brisbane

2015 PROVINCE: TBC
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 44
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 202 (6T, 26c, 39p, 1d)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2005 v Poverty Bay (for Northland) in Whangarei

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Beset by injury for much of his return to New Zealand after playing in UK and Japan which thwarted his impact. Excellent communication skills and strong contributor.

CHARLIE FAUMUINA

POSITION: Prop
PHYSICAL: 1.85m | 128kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 24.12.86

SUPER GAMES: 73
SUPER POINTS: 20 (4t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2009 v Sharks in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 48
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2007 v Counties Manukau v Auckland

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Charlie showed his resilience to come back from a late injury and show his worth at the Rugby World Cup. He is incredibly gifted athlete for a big front rower and will become a key senior leader in this year although he is still a young man.

BLAKE GIBSON

POSITION: Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.86m | 102kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 19.04.95

SUPER GAMES: 4
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Highlanders

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 10
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Canterbury in Christchurch

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Blake is an outstanding prospect who was impressive for the NZ Under 20 side and in his Super Rugby opportunities last year. He has got all the attributes to become a key player in this team.

BRYN HALL

POSITION: Halfback
PHYSICAL: 1.83m | 94kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 3.2.92 in Auckland

SUPER GAMES: 17
SUPER POINTS: 15 (3t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2013 v Crusaders in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 38
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 52 (5t, 6c, 5p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Waikato in Albany

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Bryn is a former New Zealand U20 representative and North Harbour captain who was beset with long-term injury last year. Smart and skilful halfback with all the attributes to be a key contender in the modern game.

BILLY GUYTON

POSITION: Halfback
PHYSICAL: 1.86m | 90kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 17.03.83

SUPER GAMES: 2
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2014 v Waratahs (for the Hurricanes) in Sydney

2015 PROVINCE: Tasman
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 60
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 145 (12t, 20c, 15p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2010 v Southland (for North Otago) in Invercargill

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Former North Otago halfback who has made his mark to earn the starting position at Tasman. He is a livewire and strong halfback with a good pass and darting runner who jumped at the chance to move north to the Blues.

AKIRA IOANE

POSITION: Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.94m | 113kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 16.01.95

SUPER GAMES: 9
SUPER POINTS: 5 (1t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Chiefs

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 11
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 25 (5t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Southland in Invercargill

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

In a short time he has shown some of his extraordinary potential. He is a big man who has strength, skill and speed. Akira was a key part of the New Zealand Under 20 World Championship win and has just completed an outstanding ITM Cup.

RIEKO IOANE

POSITION: Outside back
PHYSICAL: 1.88m | 103kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 18.03.97

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 6
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Taranaki in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

The younger brother of Akira, he followed his brother into the NZ Sevens team where he has been a standout. Still learning the 15-aside game, Rieko has the build, skills and speed to be a major force. He was NZ Schools captain in 2014.

BEN LAM

POSITION: Outside back:
PHYSICAL: 1.94m | 105kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 9.6.91

SUPER GAMES: 7
SUPER POINTS: 5 (1t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Stormers in Cape Town

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 7
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Canterbury in Christchurch

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Ben took time to adapt from the Sevens game, where he played for NZ, to the 15-aside game. However he has enjoyed an excellent ITM Cup for Auckland and keen to cement a starting spot on the wing for the Blues.

JEROME KAINO

POSITION: Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.96m | 110kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 6.4.83 in Tutuila, American Samoa

SUPER GAMES: 106
SUPER POINTS: 40 (8t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2004 v Reds in Brisbane

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 54
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 45 (9t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2004 v Poverty Bay in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 66
TEST POINTS: 55 (11t)
TEST DEBUT: 2006 v Ireland in Hamilton

THE BLUES SAY...

There's little more than can be said about Jerome, who returned after two years in Japan to find his titanic form and develop into a leader who all our players would follow in the trenches. Pivotal to the Blues success on and off the field.

TEVITA LI

POSITION: Outside back
PHYSICAL: 1.82m | 95kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 23.3.95 in Auckland

SUPER GAMES: 15
SUPER POINTS: 15 (3t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2014 v Highlanders in Dunedin

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 24
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 40 (8t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2013 v Counties Manukau in Albany

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Tevita is another young player who was a key part of the NZ Under 20 success in 2015. While he is small in stature, he is very strong and explosive and will be looking to make the step up to Super Rugby winger.

STEVEN LUATUA

POSITION: Lock / Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.96m | 115kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 4.4.91 in Auckland

SUPER GAMES: 48
SUPER POINTS: 30 (6t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2012 v Lions in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 25
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 20 (4t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2011 v Canterbury in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 14
TEST POINTS: 5 (1t)
TEST DEBUT: 2013 v France in New Plymouth

THE BLUES SAY...

Steven is another of the senior leaders on and off the field coming back from injury for the 2016 season. As a player he is one of the most skilful big men around and he is a future leader of this club.

SIONE MAFILEO

POSITION: Prop
PHYSICAL: 1.78m | 128kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 14.04.93

SUPER GAMES: 2
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Crusaders in Albany

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 12
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Southland in Albany

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Still only 22, Sione was a NZ Under 20 rep in the 2013 Junior World Championship after playing for NZ Schools. He is a young tighthead with mobility and strength and real prospect for the future.

QUENTIN MACDONALD

POSITION: Hooker
PHYSICAL: 1.81m | 110kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 25.09.88

SUPER GAMES: 44
SUPER POINTS: 5 (1t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2010 v Highlanders (for the Crusaders) in Christchurch

2015 PROVINCE: Tasman
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 78
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 35 (7t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2007 v Waikato in Blenheim

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Still only 27, Quentin has 44 Super Caps behind him and returns to the Blues from the Chiefs. He is a key part of the Tasman success after some experience in UK for Munster as a mobile and aggressive front rower.

HOANI MATENGA

POSITION: Lock
PHYSICAL: 1.95m | 106kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 13.04.87

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Wellington
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 12
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Taranaki in New Plymouth

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Hoani is a big gain for the Blues, as he returns from playing in France and Japan. He is a big, aggressive and mobile lock or loosie who was formerly from Christchurch and played for Otago and this year for Wellington.

NIC MAYHEW

POSITION: Prop
PHYSICAL: 1.80m | 114kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 28.11.88

SUPER GAMES: 3
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Hurricanes in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 19
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2010 v Japan XV in Albany

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Nic returned home last year after four seasons in UK and is adapting back to rugby at the highest level in NZ. He is a big and mobile prop from North Harbour who has a real future in the game after his debut for the Blues late in the season.

GEORGE MOALA

POSITION: Outside back
PHYSICAL: 1.88m | 99kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 5.11.90

SUPER GAMES: 40
SUPER POINTS: 65 (13t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2012 v Sharks in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 45
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 135 (27t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2011 v Otago in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 1
TEST POINTS: 5 (1t)
TEST DEBUT: 2015 v Samoa in Apia

THE BLUES SAY...

George may be quiet off the field, but he does all his talking on the field. His penetrative running and big defence earned him an All Blacks cap and he has been the standout midfielder in ITM Cup this year. He is a key for the Blues in 2016.

MATT MCGAHAN

POSITION: Utility back
PHYSICAL: 1.85m | 91kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 21.04.93

SUPER GAMES: 2
SUPER POINTS: 5 (1t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Crusaders in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 20
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 98 (5t, 17c, 13p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Otago in Dunedin

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Only 22, Matt has experience in the NRL and is adapting back to rugby with North Harbour and the Blues Development where he was player of the year in 2015. He is a versatile player with strong defence, good passing skills and vision.

MATT MOULDS

POSITION: Hooker
PHYSICAL: 1.88m | 107kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 15.5.91

SUPER GAMES: 2
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Stormers in Cape Town

2015 PROVINCE: Northland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 28
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 15 (3t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2013 v Southland in Whangarei

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Matt is a young man with a big future. Developed into a leader for Northland and with his experience in the NZ Sevens, is mobile for a hooker. Has his chance after learning behind two All Blacks at the Blues in 2015.

MELANI NANAI

POSITION: Outside back
PHYSICAL: 1.94m | 90kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 03.08.93

SUPER GAMES: 13
SUPER POINTS: 15 (3t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Cheetahs in Bloemfontein

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 11
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 15 (3t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Bay of Plenty

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Melani was selected out of the Manukau club for the Blues last year, grabbing his chance to start 13 times for the Blues last year. He was arguably the Blues' most improved player last year, as a wing/fullback with speed, strength and skill.

JAMES PARSONS

POSITION: Hooker
PHYSICAL: 1.85m | 106kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 27.11.86 in Palmerston North

SUPER GAMES: 49
SUPER POINTS: 10 (2t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2012 v Highlanders in Dunedin

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 79
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 70 (14t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2007 v Wellington in Wellington

TEST CAPS: 1
TEST POINTS: 0
TEST DEBUT: 2014 v Scotland in Edinburgh

THE BLUES SAY...

James shared his starting role with Keven Mealamu, but now has the chance to step up to a leadership role in the team. He is a fast and athletic hooker and a real contributor to the team on and off the field.

SAM NOCK

POSITION: Halfback
PHYSICAL: 1.78m | 85kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 18.06.96

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Northland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 10
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Hawke's Bay in Napier

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Sam enjoyed an outstanding collegiate career at St Kentigern and NZ Schools as a halfback and leader. Injury delayed his return to ITM Cup rugby but has been a standout at Northland. Big future for a young man.

SAM PRATTLEY

POSITION: Loosehead prop
PHYSICAL: 1.96m | 116kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 16.1.90

SUPER GAMES: 23
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2013 v Crusaders in Christchurch

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 57
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2010 v Wellington (Tasman) in Wellington

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Sam is a quiet achiever who is developing in the game after winning a Junior World title with NZ U20s in 2010. Sam has 23 caps for the Blues behind All Black Tony Woodcock, and now has his opportunity to step up.

KARA PRYOR

POSITION: Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.89m | 104kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 02.04.91

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Northland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 21
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Manawatu in Whangarei

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Kara followed his brother Dan from Auckland to Northland and has been impressive as a hard-working loose forward who carries the ball well. Kara has real X factor and electric in the open field.

RENE RANGER

POSITION: Utility back
PHYSICAL: 1.83m | 102kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 30.09.86

SUPER GAMES: 65
SUPER POINTS: 125 (25t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2009 v Force

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 65
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 75 (15t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2006 v North Harbour (for Northland)

TEST CAPS: 6
TEST POINTS: 5 (1t)
TEST DEBUT: 2010 v Wales

THE BLUES SAY...

The Blues are delighted to have Rene back with us after two years playing in France. He is a match-winner either in the midfield or wing and of course earned an All Blacks jersey. Rene will be a key leader in the backs for the Blues.

JACK RAM

POSITION: Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.83m | 102kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 14.01.87

SUPER GAMES: 1
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Highlanders

2015 PROVINCE: Northland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 22
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Waikato in Hamilton

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Jack is a tough and experienced loose forward who impressed in his short time with the Blues as a replacement. He has played Sevens for Tonga and graduated to their World Cup team. Jack is abrasive and uncompromising.

GERALD TUIOTI-MARINER

POSITION: Lock
PHYSICAL: 1.96m | 110kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 16.06.92

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 15
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Manawatu in Albany

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Gerard is a hard-working lock for North Harbour who has been a consistent ball-winner in the lineouts. He has impressed with his work ethic all season.

PATRICK TUIPULOTU

POSITION: Lock
PHYSICAL: 1.98m | 120kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 23.1.93 in Auckland

SUPER GAMES: 21
SUPER POINTS: 15 (3t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2014 v Highlanders in Dunedin

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 11
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2013 v North Harbour in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 7
TEST POINTS: 5 (1t)
TEST DEBUT: 2014 v England

THE BLUES SAY...

Paddy returns after surgery that cut short his 2015 season. He is a blue chip prospect at the highest levels in NZ as a big young lock with outstanding skills around the park. He is a key component of the Blues in 2016.

LOLAGI VISINIA

POSITION: Fullback
PHYSICAL: 1.92m | 103kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 17.1.93

SUPER GAMES: 22
SUPER POINTS: 37 (7t, 1c)
SUPER DEBUT: 2013 v Chiefs in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 35
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 63 (12t, 1p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Manawatu in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Lolagi is a very dangerous attacking player who can play at fullback or wing. He is a former NZ U20 and Sevens player who is a gifted attacker.

OFA TU'UNGAFAZI

POSITION: Tighthead Prop
PHYSICAL: 1.95m | 120kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 19.4.92 in Tonga

SUPER GAMES: 27
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2013 v Hurricanes in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 38
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Hawke's Bay in Napier

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Ofa is only 23 but has worked hard and learned much from Tony Woodcock and Charlie Faumuina. He has come through the NZ age teams and trained with the All Blacks World Cup squad. 2016 is a big chance for Ofa to take a step up.

IHAIA WEST

POSITION: First five-eighth
PHYSICAL: 1.75m | 84kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 16.01.91

SUPER GAMES: 22
SUPER POINTS: 156 (6t, 27c, 29p)
SUPER DEBUT: 2014 v Reds in Auckland

2015 PROVINCE: Hawke's Bay
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 43
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 456 (13t, 80c, 75p, 2d)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Counties Manukau

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Ihaia is in his third season at the Blues but is only 23. He is a fine distributor who continues to develop his attacking game. Ihaia is an extraordinary goal kicker as witnessed by his sideline efforts for the Blues last year and for Hawke's Bay.

BLUES

2016 WIDER TRAINING GROUP



JOE EDWARDS

POSITION: Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.94m | 113kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 21.09.93

SUPER GAMES: 4
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: 2015 v Rebels

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 35
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 15 (3t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Manawatu

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Injuries meant he could not take his chance of Super Rugby until late in the 2015 season but played consistently well as a real leader in a young Auckland team in the ITM Cup. Athletic and strong loose forward.

TJ FAIANE

POSITION: Midfield back
PHYSICAL: 1.75m | 92kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 24.10.95

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 7
PROVINCIAL POINTS: -
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Bay of Plenty in Rotorua

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

TJ is a special young player who was a big part of the success of the New Zealand Under 20 win. He's played ITM Cup level in his first year out of school and has a big future.

PIERS FRANCIS

POSITION: First five-eighth
PHYSICAL: 1.82m | 92kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 20.06.90

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Counties Manukau
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 26
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 87 (2t, 13c, 17p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2011 v Canterbury (for Auckland) in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Piers is an English-born first five who played for the Chiefs before returning to Edinburgh. Intelligent and skilful pivot and fine goal-kicker, he gets his Super Rugby dream after excellent season for Counties Manukau.

MICHAEL LITTLE

POSITION: Midfield back
PHYSICAL: 1.88m | 89kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 14.03.93

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: North Harbour
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 13
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 30 (6t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2013 v Manawatu in Palmerston North

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Michael was part of the Blues Development team, and has impressed during the ITM Cup for North Harbour as a midfield back with good vision and brave into contact.

JORDAN TRAINOR

POSITION: Outside back
PHYSICAL: 1.87m | 83kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 31.01.96

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Waikato
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 1
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2015 v Hawke's Bay in Napier

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Young Auckland prospect who played for NZ Schools two years ago as fullback after a stellar collegiate career. He played for Waikato this year while attending university but returns home to the Blues.

SCOTT SCRAFTON

POSITION: Lock
PHYSICAL: 2.00m | 114kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 18.04.93

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 12
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 0
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Northland in Auckland

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

Scott is only 22 but has impressed as a tough and hard-working lock. He has been tireless for Auckland and has leadership qualities as captain at club level. He is another to represent NZ at U20s.

NAMATAHI WA'A

POSITION: Prop
PHYSICAL: 1.88m | 130kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 24.09.90

SUPER GAMES: 0
SUPER POINTS: 0
SUPER DEBUT: -

2015 PROVINCE: Northland
PROVINCIAL GAMES: 17
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2014 v Manawatu in Whangarei

TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: -
TEST DEBUT -

THE BLUES SAY...

He is a promising young prop from Northland who has returned after time out of the game with a hip injury. Namatahi is a former Te Aute College player who has come through the Blues Development system.

BLUES IN 2015



FINISHED 14TH OVERALL AFTER ROUND ROBIN

P	W	D	L	B	PF	PA	PD	B4	B7	PTS
16	3	0	13	2	282	428	-146	2	6	20

Photos: Getty Images



