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OFFICIAL VIEW

Most players at Oldham are loyal to the club at heart, but none more so than Frank Daley. He has always endeavoured to give of his best, whether with the first or second team. In addition, he has never queried his selection whether as out-half-centre, loose-forward, or in the second row.

Wherever he has been chosen to play he has given his best, and to the fullest extent of his ability. Who can forget the partnership he formed with Frank Stirrup when they became probably the most-feared pair of half-backs in the Rugby League.

Who can fail to remember his performance in the Lancashire Cup final in season 1957-58, against Wigan at Swinton, when the renowned Billy Boston was switched to out-half in what was considered a master stroke of tactics.

It is history how Billy reverted back to the wing before the end of the game. And this at a time when many followers of the game considered "Dan" Daley a back-number.

Many are the stories that could be told about Frank to underline the impression he made on his team-mates, but none to my mind highlights this more than the remarks passed by a young second-team three-quarter who said he felt "protected" and filled with confidence when Frank was in the team.

No one could be more popular with the first and second-team players than Frank, and he ranks as one of the best clubmen at Watersheddings. Such loyalty is something to be treasured and is of immeasurable value to a club.

Oldham Football Club have been fortunate in having many loyal players over the years, but none more so than Frank, and I can only hope that his presence among them has helped to sow fruitful seeds of loyalty in many of the younger players now on the club books.

If only for this reason, therefore, I would appeal to all members and supporters to rally round and support all the efforts now being made to give this wholehearted and loyal player his due reward.

W. HOWARD,

President, O.F.C.

The Oldham Football Club Supporters Club

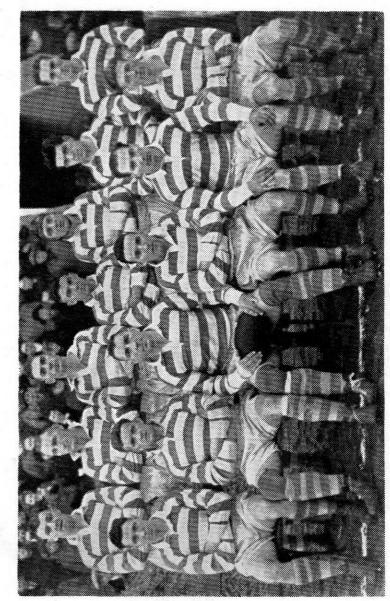
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DALEY'S STORY

Frank Daley could have been a soccer player . . . he could have been a professional boxer . . . he could have dedicated himself to the field of classical music. It was the unexpected smile of Dame Fortune that brought him to the field of Rugby League.

One of nine brothers and sisters, Frank Daley was born on January 11th, 1926, and from the day he took his first tumble it was obvious to the Daleys that they had themselves a lad with a big heart.

Frank grew up in the grimy district of industrial Wigan. When he was with his pals it was physical training and soccer, and when he trotted off home it was lessons on the piano and hours of entertainment from the classics of music.

In those days Frank's hero was his big brother Joe. "I can remember polishing his boxing medals", Daley junior says, "and



The Daley sense of humour. Frank was asked if he had a picture of himself in his younger days—and this was the one he handed over. Frank was one of nine kids at the Daley home—four girls, five boys. Most of the family are now married but Frank Daley is still a bachelor.

those were the days when I thought I would one day be a boxer myself.

"Joe used me as his sparring partner, and when I tell you that he was an army champion, you won't find it difficult to realise the type of pasting I took so that Joe could practice".

That toughening-up process had its purpose—although Frank didn't know it. He might have thought it would help him with his desire to become a physical training instructor.

It occurred to him way back that those belts on the body had played their part in making him the cocky little soccer man he was, with no particular position on the field—just anywhere for a game.

But brother Joe and his dynamite punching had not been aimed for soccer or P.T. They had provided the foundation make-up for one of the toughest, most adaptable Rugby League men since the end of the war.

R.A.F. physical training instructor Daley spent his first day as

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a civvy watching Wigan play their mighty brand of Rugby League, and Daley was so very impressed.

"When I saw Wigan in 1947, I suddenly realised rugby was my game", he tells me. "I turned to Joe and he knew by my enthusiasm that I meant what I said.

"Position? I didn't even think about it. I wanted to play Rugby League football, that's all. Where I played didn't seem important right then".

In the best traditions of big brothers, Joe Daley dropped a note to newly-formed Leigh. "I have got a brother who wants to play rugby. He is just the man you want, because he will play anywhere".

Leigh sent for Frank, tipped him on the scales, ran him on the field and decided he would make a centre. At the end of 1947 Oldham got their first look at him and decided by £1,300 he was the man for them.

Of the hundreds of rugby players I have met, I can't think of one really to compare with "Dan" Daley. He has never been star material, but always he has managed to find an antidote to the bright young things put up against him.

In the game of first-class football, Daley has played full-back, wing, centre, stand-off, second-row forward and loose-forward. Wherever Oldham put him, he never let them down.

Who will ever forget the champion partnership he struck up with Mister Football himself, Frank Stirrup? Who will ever know just how much this pair contributed to the recent successes of Oldham?

Nobody more than Frank has wondered just when the day will come when he hangs up those boots for the last time. When he ran out on to the Maine Road field against Warrington in the League Championship final of 1955, Frank thought the time was near.

"I so wanted a winners' medal", he told me, "and somehow I had got the idea that game was the last chance. We lost, but the chance came against Hull two years later and I got my medal".

And he got a Lancashire Cup medal as well. His one ambition is to add a Challenge Cup medal: "But I don't think that will happen now", he sighed. For myself, as I looked at this warrior, I just couldn't help wondering if it would still happen.

My records tell me that Frank Daley has made 197 appearances with the Oldham team since he joined them in January, 1948, and he has scored 34 tries.

Not an impressive record in numbers, but if performance counts for anything, Daley as much as anybody has brought fan after fan hurtling to his feet in grateful appreciation.

I don't think we have heard the last of Frank Daley.

BILL DORRAN.

(W.D. of the Oldham Chronicle).

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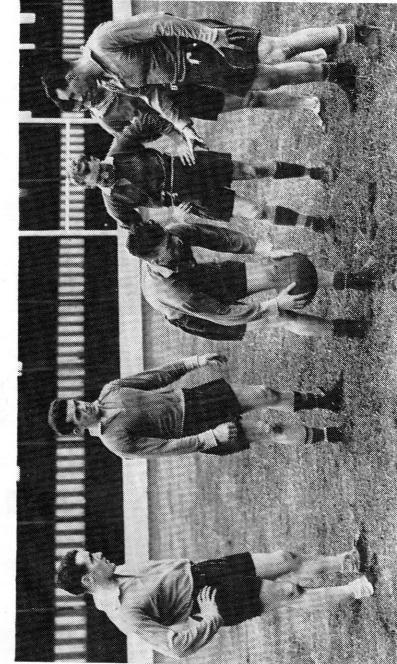
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TO BE FRANK

Frank Daley, that craggy-faced, tough-as-teak, honest-to-goodness Wiganer—that's the toast, Gentlemen.

Oh for a few more players like Frank in Rugby League football. You can have the polished artist: give me the solid 80-minute player every time—one you can depend on in a crisis, and above all, a player who has not to be coaxed or coddled to play out of position.

Let's be frank—that is Frank Daley. Nothing sums up this anywhere-for-a-game player than the joke he has cracked so many times after a match.

As he dropped off the team's motor-coach after an away game, or prepared to make his way home from the Oldham ground, he would call out: "Want me to put weight on Griff, or take it off for next week".

That has been the way it has been with Frank right through his career—happy-go-lucky.

Barely had he been signed from Leigh and he had started his travels which have taken him into every position in Oldham's team except into the front row of the forwards.

Full-back, stand-off, scrum-half, centre, on the wing, loose-forward and in the second row of the forwards you will find the name of Frank Daley.

He was a centre when he left Leigh. But Oldham quickly turned him out as a stand-off. And Frank would have been game to have a crack in the front row, too. But Oldham never asked him to play that role. Maybe it was because, as he says, "A week between matches does not give you time enough to put on sufficient weight".

One thing for sure: Oldham will never get a better club servant. Gentlemen, I give you Frank Daley. And here's to a successful benefit. He's earned it. Ten years with one club is something to be proud of.

JOE HUMPHREYS,

Daily Mirror

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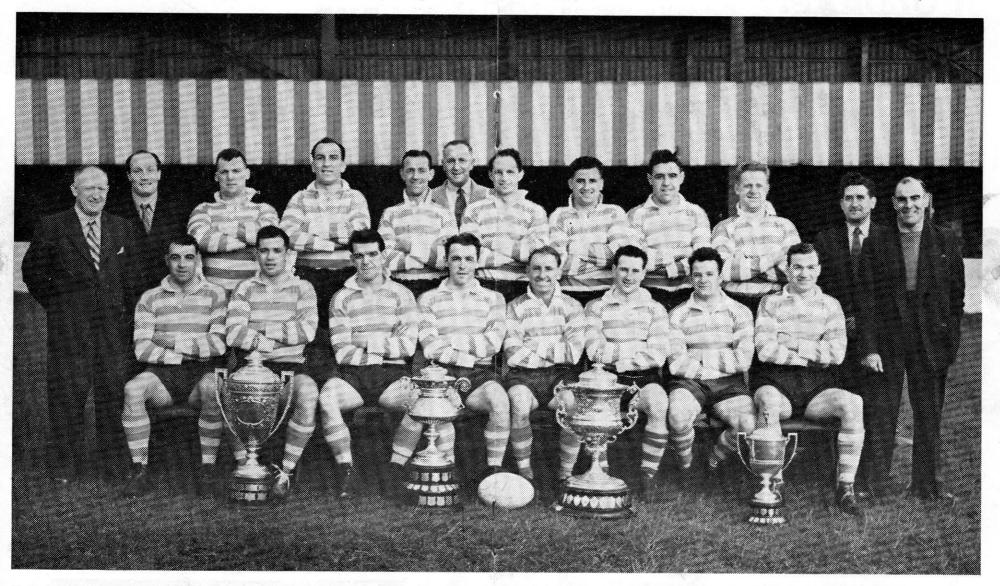
TOM LONGWORTH

WHO WRITES ONLY IN THE

News Chronicle

Daily Dispatch

FRANK DALEY'S FOUR-CUP SEASON



Nobody will ever forget this team—and they will always wonder why the Challenge Cup didn't join the other four. Back row: Mitchell (trainer), Vines, Winslade, Keith, Shaw (trainer), Little, Turner, Jackson, Jarman, Navesey (physiotherapist). Front row: Heywood (trainer), Cracknell, Davies, Daley, Ganley, Stirrup, Pitchford, Ayres, Etty, Jenkins (manager).

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The object of this booklet is to compose a hymn of praise to a rugby player named Frank Daley. And that is not as easy as it seems, for Frank Daley is no help. He has never sought the headlines, never paraded his private life before the public.

He will talk about rugby for hours—but one story he will never tell is the Frank Daley story. That is why we are all so damned determined to tell it. I have never known Oldham without Frank Daley, and I don't think I can imagine it without him. Neither for that matter can Oldham.

The first real memory I have of him is seeing him one matchday walking through the town centre with his arm in a sling. The people with me were so disappointed they almost turned the car round and gave the match a miss.

Yet it didn't seem long after that I was writing those interminable stories about Oldham searching for an out-half. But it was always Frank I went to watch on a Saturday. Then when Oldham were stuck for a loose-forward it was, of course, Frank they sent for.

I reckon him to be one of the most taken-for-granted players in the game. He is always there, a prop for the club to lean on whenever there is an embarrassing blank on the team sheet.

He is always happy to play, even though in preceding weeks he has not even been among the also-rans and he knows his name will be forgotten as soon as the emergency is over.

It seems such a long time since I first heard somebody breathe "Daley is a back-number", that I wondered who it was wearing the No. 6 jersey in the last home game with Warrington.

Whenever he sees you, friendly Frank will give you a wink like a manhole cover closing. But he will keep tight-lipped about his achievements. He is content to be known merely as a rugby player. To that you can add the title, "Clubman Extraordinary".

TOM BRENNAND,

Oldham Press Agency

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ALAN DAVIES comment: "Allan Cave is a real Rugby League expert. His opinion is worth reading."

and FRANK PITCHFORD sums up: "I like Allan Cave's reports because they always bring out some new, unexpected point about the game which sets us talking."

You, too, must read Allan Cave in the



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NEVER SHIRKS

Frank Daley stands for resoluteness and toughness, aye, and gameness, for there's not an awful lot of him. But he's never been known to shirk a tackle, no matter how big they've come.

His build admirably suited him for the role in which he made his name, stand-off-half. He was, in fact, satisfactorily endowed for the job from a physical standpoint. That is partly why the club latterly used him as a forward.

But we shall always think of Frank Daley as a firm-as-a-rock stand-off. His character you can judge from the way his chin juts out. He stands his ground, never gives way—that's always been up to the other guy.

And Daley is one of those chaps who has never had full praise bestowed on his efforts. He was the one who did the probing, the finding of the opening; the other fellow got the cheers for scoring.

But so long as Frank Daley will live he will always remember his own rugby for his association at half-back with Frank Stirrup. The two names remain inseparable.

Daley dovetailed with Stirrup as no other player ever has done. Individually, they were pretty hot; as a pair they were unbeatable on their day—and, oh, so brilliant and devastating to watch.

I would never say Frank Daley was fast, but my, was he quick on the uptake! He would swing through on one of Stirrup's made-to-order passes like a swallow—so swift, so sure.

One of the Daley maxims must have been: "Make it as easy for your centre as you can". And he applied it, for no winger has ever had better service from his centre than that which Daley gave to his centres.

There, then, is Daley the attacker. That's just half the player, and the other half, defence, I rate the better. Daley was never a second-timer in the tackle; one tug, grab, or clutch was enough—always low.

Daley is not now a regular member of the first team, but he's still good enough to be considered first choice in any emergency. Why? Simply because Oldham know that he doesn't know how to let them down. Unostentatious and workmanlike, that's your Frank Daley for me. And thanks for many memories, Frank.

ALLAN CAVE,

Daily Herald

BRYN DAY

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THE SPOILER

If I was a football manager and interested in signing a player, I would watch him playing away from home. If I wanted to recommend players for a trip to Australia, I would watch them on opponents' grounds.

That is my test of a real footballer, and Frank Daley would pass this test every time. Frank was not a "homer" only, and that says a lot for his football ability.

He is the type of player whose loyalty is unquestionable and even on his off-days he would still be trying.

"Craggy" Daley or "Chunky" Daley, his stocky figure in the middle of the field gave him a dominating role. He always seemed to me to mould play around him just as Willie Horne always appeared to do.

He may not be the fastest stand-off, but opponents somehow never seemed faster because of his correct positioning.

In fact, Daley in the role of spoiler has had no master. In the years that have passed, if a stand-off came through a game on top, he was a brilliant stand-off to have passed the test of Daley.

But why talk about Daley the out-half? There is Daley the centre, Daley the full-back, Daley the forward. Frank always played where Oldham wanted him to play—without any questions.

He is one player I don't have difficulty recalling. Whenever I saw him play and wherever he played, he always left me satisfied—not simply because of a solid performance, but because I had watched a man who is 80 minutes full of rugby.

I imagine any player who survives regularly 10 years of football with one club deserves a testimonial. I reckon Frank Daley deserves that bit extra from Oldham fans—for his big moments, his comebacks, but above all for his 100% endeavour. And in these days this means a lot.

EDDIE WARING,

Sunday Pictorial

*

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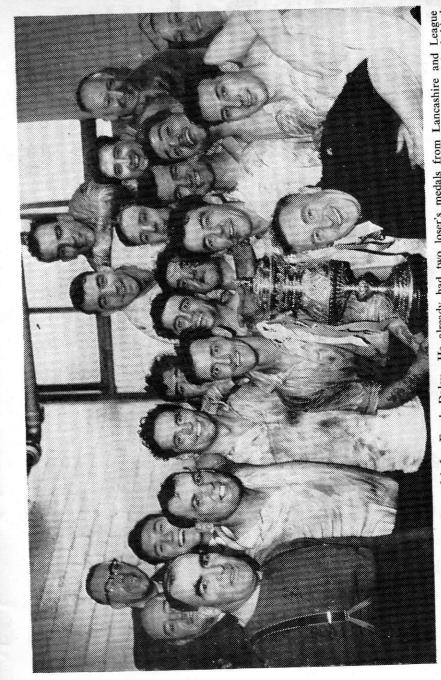
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THE GREAT LINK

It's not hard to believe that Frank Daley, the hard-hitting tackler with the "Li'l Abner" profile, has been at Oldham long enough for a benefit. Whenever Oldham have been in trouble, whenever they want some opposing stand-off blotted out, there's always dangerous "Dan" Daley to the rescue.

What is going to be hard, although he has rarely been considered for the first team this season, is imagining Oldham without "play-anywhere" Daley. He hasn't been asked to hook yet—but there's always a first time. It would probably be unfair, however, on an established hooker to have to pack down against Daley.

One glare from that craggy face, one stand-no-nonsense glint from those piercing eyes and Daley would probably be given the ball to take home.

Daley has been one of those players for whom the glamour of internationals means little. But while he may not have had his name whispered in awe, there's many a star player who has ended up with the greatest respect for his merciless, but strictly fair, defence. Reputations, in Daley's mind, are made to be broken.

Too many fans have under-rated Daley's attacking work. Not for him the spectacular midfield break—the sort of break that may happen only once or twice in a match.

Daley as a stand-off has always been content to be a link, and a darn fine one, too. He is a grand ball-player who knows all the moves and when to use them. And he knows how to bring his three-quarters into play at the best opportunities. After all, what more could you want from a stand-off?

An opera-lover in his spare time, Daley has always been noted for his dry wit at Watersheddings. Before a Lancashire Cup final a few seasons ago, he listened quietly to a pompous speech of exhortation at a midweek training session. "Any questions?" asked the speaker.

"Yes", said Daley. "Stirrup and I are reserves. The seats are awfully hard at Wigan, and I wonder if we could have cushions to sit on". (Uproar).

Then there was the time Daley was chosen at loose-forward. Said Griff Jenkins before the match: "Dan, I want you to give Pitchford all the cover you can; give him plenty".

Retorted Daley: "If Pitchford wants any more cover than I can give him, tell him to bring an umbrella".

JACK McNAMARA,

Manchester Evening News

Frank Ridgway

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TERRIFIC GUTS

I am delighted to be able to contribute to cheery Frank Daley's benefit booklet. The dizzy heights of brilliance, so often attained by his many international colleagues, have seldom been scaled by fearless Frank.

You could hardly call him a glittering star but, to me, Frank is still the salt of the Rugby League earth.

It would be difficult to imagine a more dogged and determined customer. And it would be well-nigh impossible to find a player so long unwanted by his team selectors, yet so long a fixture on their team sheet. For Frank Daley, Oldham stand-off, has been the misfit who fitted.

Take a look at the long list of players tried by Oldham in the out-half berth while Daley has been on the Watersheddings register—the late Johnny Feather, Frank Stirrup, Dennis Ayres, John Noon, Alan Davies, Alan Jones, Alan Kellett (before he finally succeeded Daley) and Rowley Moat.

An incredible list—yet Daley always came back to prove a vital link in Oldham's scintillating attacking machine.

The guts of the man have been terrific. He must have a heart as big as a pumpkin. After Oldham's second successive Lancashire Cup win at Swinton in October, 1957, when Wigan's burly Billy Boston was a tremendous threat at stand-off, I wrote:

"Billy Boston was always firmly handled. Oldham took no chances with him, and Wiganer Frank Daley deserved a medal as big as a pancake for the way he tackled him".

When the history of Oldham's mighty exploits in the 1950s is written, there must be a page for Frank Daley. In 1953 he played for Lancashire alongside Frank Stirrup, and they were dubbed "the old firm".

But he has been essentially the supreme clubman since he joined Oldham from Leigh on January 31st, 1949. In Frankie boy's 10-year stay at Watersheddings, Oldham have won their first major trophy (the Lancashire Cup) in 23 years, and the League Championship Cup has also graced the Watersheddings sideboard for the first time in 46 years.

Frank likes classical music. Give him sweet music, too, Oldham fans, in the shape of a record benefit. He richly deserves it.

PHIL KING.

The People

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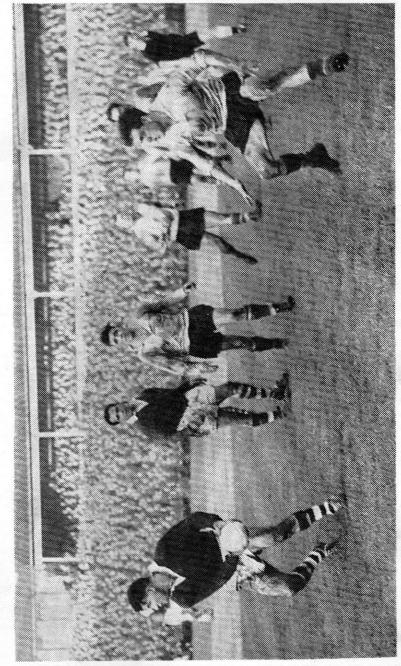
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