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his opinions and expert comment  
exclusively in the

## Manchester Evening News

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OFFICIAL

5p

PROGRAMME



*Warrington 16*  
RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
(Northern League Championship Match)

v **OLDHAM 15**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 1972

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



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## The Alex Murphy Column

Our position in the League continues to improve and with a fine cup victory over Batley under our belts, the mood at Wilderspool is one of optimism and a tremendous belief that Warrington can emerge as one of the "dark-horses" in this year's Challenge Cup Competition.

Warrington have now played ten games without defeat and it is no accident that we have hit this winning run.

Our victories are the result of concentrated endeavour. We trained hard and long to achieve a standard of fitness which we know we must maintain if we are to be serious challengers in the demanding Cup competition.

Against Batley we swept to a 17-2 interval lead and there was little doubt that our overall superiority would carry us through to round two.

We played as a cohesive unit and our moves were well conceived and executed with infinite craft. I was particularly pleased that when I had to go off with a facial injury with ten minutes of the game left, the boys showed their depth of character by remaining unfluffed and refusing to allow the rough handling of Batley to spoil their rhythm.

Last week-end I dropped out of the game against Blackpool to take a look at our next cup opponents, the distinguished Castleford. The '69 and '70 Cup winners lost to Leigh by ten points but we would be unwise to take this as an indication that they might be an easy proposition in the Cup.

Castleford are a very accomplished outfit and I had an opportunity of weighing up their considerable talents. I spotted a couple



Player-coach Alex Murphy, the architect of our fine Cup victory over Batley, seen here in characteristic pose as he encourages his team-mates.

of flaws in their make-up which we shall strive to exploit. My intention is for Castleford to do the worrying. We have our own skills so let them worry about how to stop us.

I would like to make special mention about you, the fans. We were delighted with the attendance for the Batley tie, which was over 6,000.

Your cheers lifted the team's performance. To hear a crowd cheering is like having a birthday, a Christmas gift and a Pools win all at once. So please keep it up and together we'll have a great club once again.

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## TALENTED OLDHAM GOING PLACES

by KEN ASHTON

If there is one Rugby League coach who could be forgiven for dipping heavily into the aspirin bottle this season, it's Graham Starkey.

Graham, former Rochdale centre ace, now Oldham's boss, found himself in the middle of a crisis at Watersheddings earlier in the term when injuries, loss of form and a pay-strike, all helped make his job one of the most unenviable in the League.

### OPPOSITION

But Oldham are used to crises. They've had more than their fair share over the last 10 years. And they've weathered this one, just like the others. So much so that since Christmas, Starkey's style of open football has been taking Oldham places. They've had a string of wins against strong opposition, interrupted only by that first round cup-tie when they nearly — but not quite — toppled St. Helens.

Oldham turned in another good performance against Bramley last Saturday and are set to keep up their run against Warrington today.

### AMBITION

Starkey told me: "We are sure we can upset Alex Murphy's team and climb an-

other step up the League. Our ambition is to finish in the top half and we need every point."

The men who could turn it Oldham's way if Warrington show the slightest signs of slipping are full-back Martin Murphy, goal-kicker Phil Larder and Test forward Bob Irving.

One of Warrington's problems could be possession. Kevin Taylor, whom I saw as a 16-year-old deputy to Len McIntyre, then Oldham's No. 1 hooker, has plenty of experience now and outhooked Test man Tony Karalius in the cup clash with Saints.

### FIRM TACKLERS

Oldham have plenty of talent. Larder and Joe Collins are experienced centres, Welshman Mike Elliott has speed on the wing and there are firm tacklers in forwards Bill Churm and Ken Wilson. And recent signing prop Frank Foster, from Barrow, has strengthened the front-row.

Oldham are not the pushover they were earlier in the season and Murphy's men will have a job on their hands. It all points to a sparkling game that should give the fans plenty of talking points.

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"If there is a smarter team in Rugby today then we'd like to see them." This was the challenge the Wilderspool fans threw out after they caught sight of our players sporting these new blazer suits before the Challenge Cup match against Batley. The suits, which have finely worked club badges on the pockets, have been specially made to measure by the CWS men's wear group. It was little wonder that the boys attracted the attention of four "dolly-girls" recently 'signed' by the club to canvass for agents for our Development Fund.

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### WARRINGTON 16

White Jerseys with Primrose  
and Blue Band. White Shorts.

1—WHITEHEAD, D.	Full Back
2—BARTON, C.	Right Wing
3—NOONAN, D. / CUNLIFFE, D.	Right Centre
4—REYNOLDS/BRIGGS, W.	Left Centre
5—du TOIT, T. <i>4 goals</i>	Left Wing
6—MURPHY, A. <i>goal</i>	Stand Off
7—GORDON, P.	Scrum Half
8—WANBON, B.	Front Row
9—HEARD	Hooker
10—BRADY, D.	Front Row
11—GREGORY, B.	Second Row
12—CLARKSON, G.	Second Row
13—HENIGHAN, M. <i>try</i>	Loose Forward

Substitutes

- 14—CANNON.  
15—NOONAN

Half-time Score ..... 9 ..... pts.

Final Score ..... 16 ..... pts.

### OLDHAM 15

Red and White Jerseys.  
Blue Shorts.

1—MURPHY, M.
2—HODGKINSON, N.
3—LARDER, P. <i>1 try 2 goals</i>
4—SIDALL, M.
5—CLARK, R. <i>1 try</i>
6—HILL, C.
7—DAVIES, T.
8—WILSON, K.
9—TAYLOR, K.
10—FOSTER, F. <i>goal</i>
11—IRVING, R. <i>1 try</i>
12—CHURM, W.
13—REYNOLDS, J.

Substitutes

- 14—COLLINS, J.  
15—DALEY, A.

Half-time Score ..... 7 ..... pts.

Final Score ..... 15 ..... pts.

Referee:  
P. GERAGHTY  
(York)  
Touch Judges:  
F. BESWICK  
(Widnes)  
E. LEA  
(St. Helens)

(Substitutes can be allowed at any time in the game)

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**Plus, a second competition** – for the 16 clubs knocked out in the first round. For this, £1,000 is shared by the top 4 winning clubs that score the most tries. Which is sure to make for fast, open football!

**N°6 Player of the Year Awards** – will continue, but under different rules. 6 votes will be cast by each club for players other than their own, with £500 in prize money shared amongst the top three lucky lads. See if *your* choice is the same as your club's!

Make a date in November with Player's N°6

PNS 442

## DROP GOAL VALUES

By a Special Correspondent

Should the drop goal in Rugby League be de-valued? There have been many discussions on this point and at one stage last year it looked as if some officials would have their way and cut the value from two points to one.

I believe that if this idea is adopted then we will see a decline in what has always been considered an art.

It is only since the four-tackle rule became law that we saw more of the drop goal, and now we even see some husky forwards adept at the tactic.

This was not the case in some seasons since the War and usually it was the full-back or one of the half-backs who produced such scores.

### EVEN ALEX CAN MISS

It is not every kick which succeeds, for even Alex Murphy, Ken Gowers etc., who are experts have their misses. Not often I agree, but the legislators would be well-advised to make no change even if some countries observe the one point drop goal law.

Look at Rugby Union. They consider a drop goal is worth three points. At one time it was four. If the drop goal becomes de-valued, then the try value should be increased.

Rugby Union consider a try well worth four points and apparently the change to four points has caught on and has produced more attacking play.

But would it be the same in R.L.? Maybe, but when one change is made in the law, something unexpected happens.

If the six tackle rule becomes operative next season — and it is on the cards that it may happen — I think we will see less drop shots.

### "COWBOY" JONES

Personally, I think we could see more drop goal attempts. Remember Les "Cowboy" Jones of the Warrington years of plenty? Well "Cowboy" could drop goals from long distance penalty awards. And some of them were as good as we see from the great Welsh R.U. stars of today.

I say leave well alone. The drop goal from a "mark" went out years ago. I feel that some of the old-type rules could be better than the bullocking tactics of some teams.

### SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

Our club is becoming increasingly popular with young and old alike. TUESDAY and SUNDAY nights are our swingin' disco evenings . . . THURSDAY night Bingo takes over the floor . . . SATURDAY night is PARTY NIGHT at Wilderspool. So come along and join us. Membership is just £1 or £1.50 if you want to give the wife a treat. Our senior citizens are welcome for just 50p. Yes, it's all happening down at the Club and you're very welcome to come along and join in the fun.

### MR. BRIAN PITCHFORD

Our director Mr. Brian Pitchford came out of hospital on Thursday and we are sure you will all join us in wishing him a speedy recovery.

### THE NEW 250 CLUB DRAW

March 1st is now very close and that means the inception of the new 250 Club Draw. It will cost £12 to become a member of this Club with its restricted membership of 250. There will be £1,500 in prize money to be won and Graham Simm, our organiser has all the details. Why not contact him now and join this exciting club.

### CUP TICKETS — 2nd Round Tie

50p Stand Tickets for the game at Castleford on Saturday, 19th February, Kick-off 3 p.m. are now on sale here at the ground.

### LANCASHIRE RUGBY LEAGUE COMBINATION

(Table compiled up to and including Saturday, 5th February 1972).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salford	15	11	0	4	251	196	22
Warrington	15	10	1	4	227	134	21
Wigan	16	9	0	7	215	203	18
Widnes	14	8	0	6	163	125	16
Swinton	13	8	0	5	150	115	16
Oldham	14	7	1	6	231	168	15
St. Helens	13	5	2	6	177	150	12
Workington	13	6	0	7	188	170	12
Leigh	15	5	1	9	171	263	11
Rochdale H.	12	4	1	7	122	182	9
Barrow	15	4	0	11	207	281	8
Huyton	13	4	0	9	104	219	8



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## FIXTURES 1971/72

### FIRST TEAM

1971	Opponents	Venue	Result
July	30—Wigan (Wardonia Cup)	Away L	13-26
Aug.	6—Whitehaven (L.C.1)	Home W	17-9
	12—St. Helens (Lancs. Cup 2)	Away L	6-23
	20—Salford	Away L	6-8
	25—Whitehaven	Home W	29-9
	27—Blackpool Borough	Home W	29-3
	30—Widnes	Away L	7-11
Sept.	4—York	Away W	20-15
	8—Bradford Northern	Home D	9-9
	12—Salford	Home L	13-15
	18—New Zealand	Home W	13-2
	24—Barrow	Away L	11-13
Oct	2—Hull	Home L	15-18
	10—Huyton	Away W	30-5
	12—Leigh (BBC Floodlit)	Away L	2-6
	17—Workington	Home L	6-13
	24—Swinton	Home L	9-21
	30—Hull	Away L	5-23
Nov.	7—Rochdale	Home L	10-17
	13—Halifax Players No. 6 (1)	Home L	9-16
	21—Bradford Northern	Away L	7-17
	27—Salford Players N. 6 (2)	Away L	7-38
Dec.	4—Bramley	Home W	46-11
	12—Featherstone Rovers	Away W	27-8
	19—Hunslet	Away W	13-6
	27—Barrow	Home D	6-6

1972	Opponents	Venue	Result
Jan.	2—Workington	Away W	10-4
	7—Hunslet	Home W	14-6
	16—Rochdale	Away D	10-10
	22—Doncaster	Home W	26-17
	30—Batley (R.L. Cup 1)	Home W	30-7
Feb.	6—Blackpool	Away W	18-16
	12—Oldham	Home	
	19—R.L. Cup (2)		
	27—Featherstone	Home	
Mar.	4—R.L. Cup (3)		
	5—Swinton	Away	
	12—Huyton	Home	
	18—Bramley	Away	
	25—Doncaster	Away	
	31—Widnes	Home	
Apr.	5—Oldham	Away	
	8—York (R.L. Cup S.F.)	Home	
	15—Whitehaven (R.L. S.F.)	Away	
	22—Championship Play-off 1st Round		
	29—Championship Quarter Finals		
May	6—Championship Semi-finals		
	13—R.L. Cup Final		
	20—Championship Final		

### "A" TEAM

1971	Opponents	Venue	Result
July	30—Wigan (friendly)	Home L	16-21
Aug.	14—Barrow (L.C.C.S.)	Away L	10-20
	23—Salford	Home W	13-8
Sept.	3—St. Helens	Home D	10-10
	10—Salford	Away W	25-5
	25—Barrow (L.C.C.S.)	Home W	21-9
Oct.	2—Leigh	Away L	9-15
	8—Huyton	Home W	24-3
	16—Workington	Away W	23-12
	22—Swinton	Away L	5-8
	29—Leigh	Home W	17-2
Nov.	6—Rochdale	Away W	22-15
	9—Salford (L.C.C.S.)	Home L	15-20
	16—Salford (L.C.C.S.)	Away L	2-12
	20—Barrow	Home W	21-3
	22—Wigan	Home W	17-11
	27—Wigan	Away L	8-12
Dec.	4—St. Helens	Away W	14-5
	10—Widnes	Home L	5-21

1972	Opponents	Venue	Result
Jan.	14—Rochdale	Home W	14-5
	29—Workington	Home L	2-17
Feb.	12—Oldham	Away	
	19—Barrow	Away	
Mar.	3—Swinton	Home	
	11—Huyton	Away	
	17—Warrington A.R.L. (F)	Home	
	25—Widnes	Away	
Apr.	3—Oldham	Home	

R.L. CHALLENGE CUP — 2nd Round  
LEIGH v SWINTON  
HULL v LEEDS  
WAKEFIELD TRINITY v WIGAN  
HALIFAX v FEATHERSTONE  
BARROW v YORK  
CASTLEFORD v WARRINGTON  
ST. HELENS v HUDDERSFIELD  
BRAMLEY v BRADFORD

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WARRINGTON v FEATHERSTONE

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