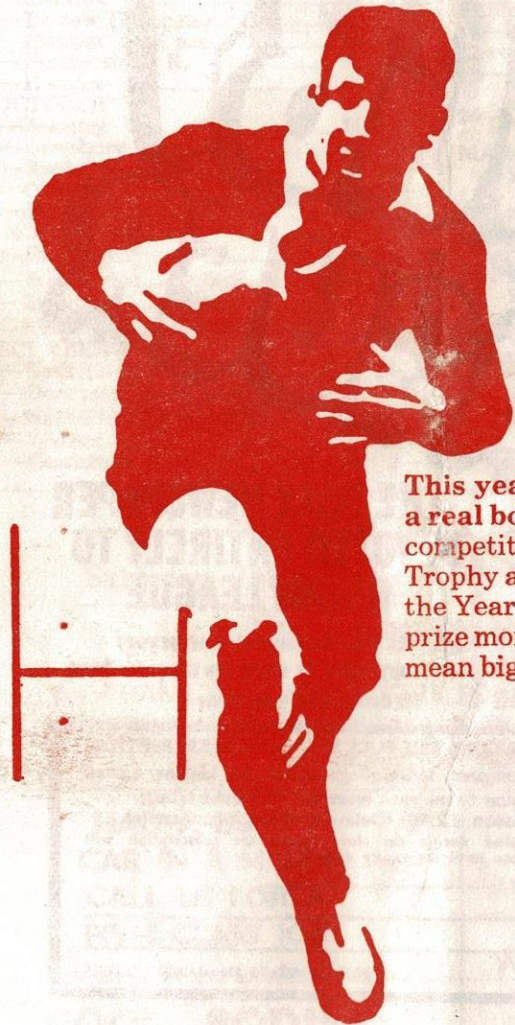


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RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
BLACKPOOL BOROUGH ○
v
OLDHAM

33

4p.

SATURDAY, 26th FEBRUARY 1972 Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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OPINION

Where do we go from here ? Five successive defeats culminating in a disastrous second half performance at Tattersfield last Saturday has dented the team's confidence. It is usual in these situations to place the blame on the person in charge of the team, but in this instance I would consider it unfair, remembering the form of last year, since when, only one regular player has left. The answer surely lies deeper; the loss of form of perhaps three players combined with suspensions and injuries, a small playing staff and the "run of the ball" being unkind (a theory in which I strongly believe) has brought about an air of depression. The remedy is not instant but more of the type of play shown against the Wires, and less help for the opposition, must soon bring the much needed morale-boosting win.

In this match Boro' were desperately unfortunate to lose 16—18, but contributed to their own downfall by giving away penalties in kickable positions — demonstrated successfully by WHITEHEAD and DU TOIT. Two tries were scored by each side (J.J. and CASS for Boro') and all Boro's goal attempts were converted by LES COULTER (three) and GED MARSH (two), but the penalty situation swayed the result. Both hookers were justifiably dismissed during the first half for technical offences after two warnings, and if this is the only way to improve scrummaging under the present rules then this is likely to happen more often. (A similar occurrence took place during last Sunday's Cup-tie between Wakefield and Wigan.) Overall it was a highly entertaining game and our biggest gate of the season must have been impressed by Boro's continued attempts at open play despite the disappointing result. The following week at the Athletics Ground, Boro's run of five successive victories over Hornets ended in a 5—10 defeat. The score does credit to great defensive play particularly during the second period when Boro' were pinned to their own 25 for much of the 40 minutes and gained minimal possession from the scrums. A long-range try by J.J. after kicking on twice, and a penalty by LES COULTER, were Boro's lone scores, and on reflection there were few chances to improve this. Boro's total of dismissals increased further when PADDY LOUGHLIN was sent packing by BILLY THOMPSON after an alleged high tackle.

It seems ironic that last season Boro' was proud of the fact that it was the only club not to have had a player sent off and now the other extreme has been reached with ten. A breakdown of this figure (without excusing the players concerned) shows that two were for technical offences, four retaliation and another subsequently found not guilty.

To return to match comment, a win was fully expected last Saturday against a side that had lost 13 consecutive games. Cautionary thoughts should perhaps have been uppermost, though, as the Dons seem to be Boro's hoodoo team. Defeat should not have been encountered as Boro' raced into an 8—0 lead and missed two glorious chances of increasing it. Up to about the 30 minute mark Boro' were playing sparkling rugby and looked likely to overwhelm Doncaster on the heavy ground when a misdirected kick

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gave full-back TOWLE the chance to carve out a try. This rejuvenated the young Yorkshiremen and Boro' suddenly took a dislike to the conditions and declined in both attack and defence alarmingly. Apart from JOHN FARRELL this was Boro's best available team and the drop in standard was a confidence shaker to both players and followers alike. It is probable that had a strong driving force been in evidence on the field then Doncaster would have been beaten out of sight. This match must be remembered only for what *not* to do again, suffer from over-confidence, "duck" tackles and miss chances.

In this, his final trial game, LES COULTER had an off day with his goal-kicking, landing only one of five attempts, but his general play was no worse than anybody else's. J.J. again treated us to a 70-yard try and was unfortunate on two other occasions. PETER CRANK and PADDY went over for the other tries.

Attempts are being made, even at this late stage, to strengthen the team, but negotiations for an established forward have broken down. There may by now be better news of approaches for a full-back and a decision is also due about young COULTER. LES could be a useful recruit to nurse along in the "A" team should one be formed for next season.

The next home match is a month away, on Saturday, 25th March, against Barrow (3 p.m.) which starts the run of four home games out of the last five fixtures.

G.S.

TODAY'S VISITORS

Today we hope to complete the double over our friends from Oldham. The first match was on the 23rd October, Boro' being successful by 24-19. Last season each side won its home match, 20-11 here and 19-3 at Oldham. At present our visitors are one point behind us in the League after recently staging a recovery.

Coach to our visitors is GRAHAM STARKEY (Huddersfield and Rochdale), his assistant is ALAN KELLETT (Bradford, Halifax and Keighley), neither of whom is expected to play this afternoon. Full-back should be Lancashire player ginger-headed MARTIN MURPHY. MIKE ELLIOTT (Cardiff R.U.) and NORMAN HODGKINSON (King's, Macclesfield, and Streatham R.U.) should be on the wings. In the centre will probably be PHIL LARDER (Sale and Manchester R.U.) and the very promising junior MICK SIDDALL. Half-backs should be CLIFF HILL (Wigan) and TOMMY DAVIES. Other possible backs are GED SMITH (Barrow and Widnes), England U-19 International JOHN BLAIR, ex-local amateur MIKE WILDE and TREVOR BUCKLEY.

The front row should be KEN "TUG" WILSON, the ex-Gloucester R.U. prop, Lancashire hooker KEVIN TAYLOR and recent signing from Barrow, Cumbrian FRANK FOSTER. Great Britain player BOB IRVING and BILL CHURM (Warrington and Salford) should be in the second row with Lancashire loose forward RAY CLARK packing down behind them. Other forwards could be FRANK WALKER (Salford), ARTHUR DALY, JIM REYNOLDS (Leigh Miners) and GARETH OWEN (son of Stan). Two forwards who will probably not be playing are DICK BONSER (Huyton, Widnes and Swinton), who is under suspension, and KEITH ASHCROFT, signed in August 1970 from Wigan, who has not, it would seem, resumed playing after breaking a leg.

Leading scorers are: Goals — LARDER 72; Tries — ELLIOTT 14, LARDER 7.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

A last reminder that our Queen Dance takes place on Thursday next, 2nd March, at the Cliffs Hotel. Tickets, price 75p (15/-) each, including supper, are still available from Committee members. The judges' panel has been finalised and comprises PRIMA BOWES

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- 1—COULTER
- 2—JOHNSON
- 3—WARBURTON
- 4—JACKSON
- 5—DELOOZE
- 6—~~CASSIDY~~ BISHOP
- 7—~~BISHOP~~ DERBYSHIRE
- 8—~~WALKER~~ COOKE
- 9—EGAN
- 10—~~COOKE~~ WALKER
- 11—HALL
- 12—CANTILLON
- 13—CRANK

- 14—MARSH CASSIDY
- 15—A. N. ~~OTHER~~ APPLEBY

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- 1—MURPHY *Try*
- 2—ELLIOTT *Try*
- 3—LARDER *6 GOALS*
- 4—SIDALL *Try*
- 5—HOGKINSON *Try*
- 6—HILL
- 7—McCONE *Try*
- 8—WILSON
- 9—TAYLOR
- 10—FOSTER
- 11—IRVING
- 12—CHURM
- 13—REYNOLDS *2 Tries*

- 14—DAVIES
- 15—DALEY

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Members who ordered Cup Final tickets can now obtain these from the Secretary.

The 1972 A.G.M. will take place on Tuesday, 7th March, 7-30 p.m., in the Social Club. Nominations to be received by the Secretary before March 5th.

G.S.

PEN PICTURE — No. 2

For the second in the series we focus on TERRY CASSIDY who will make his 100th League and Cup appearance for the club today. He signed for the Boro' from Orrell R.U.F.C. in August 1968 when Stan Owen was coach. He was the youngest signing since Tommy Bishop at the age of 18. Previously he had represented Wigan and Lancashire Schools, also Wigan Colts. He went straight into the first team as substitute, through the non-arrival of players. During his career he has had two serious injuries which almost made him retire, but his obvious keenness and enthusiasm enabled him to continue. After starting at stand-off he has now developed into a clever centre but half-back is still his favourite position. His record to date is 99 appearances plus 9 as substitute, scoring 21 tries and 3 goals — a total of 69 points. The present season is his best for try scoring.

DETAILS

Age	21.
Height	5 ft. 9 in.
Weight	11 st. 10 lb.
Lives	Wigan.
Married	Yes.
Job	Self-employed window cleaner.
Ambition	To play at Wembley.
Player most admired	Eric Ashton.
Team most admired	Leeds.
Hobby	Swimming.
Favourite soccer star	Billy Bremner.

APPEARANCES & SCORERS (all matches)

	A	S	G	T	Pts		A	S	G	T	Pts
Aspey, A.	7	3	—	1	3	Hall, F.	23	3	1	—	2
Appleby, A.	—	2	—	—	—	Hill, D.	15	4	36	2	78
Bishop, A.	28	—	1	4	14	Jackson, D.	20	—	—	6	18
Cantillon, W.	3	4	—	—	—	Johnson, J.	29	—	—	13	39
Cassidy, T.	29	1	—	8	24	Loughlin, T.	24	3	—	4	12
Clarke, F.	1	2	—	—	—	Marsh, G.	15	—	12	1	27
Cooke, T.	19	5	—	2	6	Martland, R.	29	2	—	—	—
Coulter, L.	4	—	7	—	14	Norris, G.	3	—	—	1	3
Crank, P.	26	4	—	2	6	Pickup, T.	20	—	—	6	18
Darbyshire, C.	4	11	—	—	—	Ridgway, P.	8	1	—	—	—
Delooze, F.	8	—	—	1	3	Smith, W.	—	1	—	—	—
Egan, J.	21	7	—	1	3	Swift, B.	6	2	—	1	3
Farrell, J.	23	—	—	5	15	Walker, D.	24	4	—	2	6
						Warburton, T.	13	3	14	1	31

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES, 1971-72

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1971		1972	
AUGUST			
6—Widnes (7-30 p.m.)	A 4	22 JANUARY	A 5—13
(1st Round Lancs. Cup)	27 9	1—Halifax	H 10—9
21—Halifax	H	8—Whitehaven (2-30 p.m.)	A 16—6
24—Bramley (6-30 p.m.)	A 5	16—Huyton (2-30 p.m.)	A 8—17
27—Warrington (7-30 p.m.)	A 3—29	22—Whitehaven (2-30 p.m.)	A 12—33
31—Huyton (6-45 p.m.)	H 7—2	29—1st Rd. R.L. Challenge Cup	Swinton away
SEPTEMBER			
5—Swinton	H 5—24	FEBRUARY	
10—Barrow (7-0 p.m.)	A 13—11	6—Warrington	H 16—18
14—Hunslet (6-15 p.m.)	H 16—9	12—Rochdale	A 5—10
18—Featherstone R.	H 15—18	19—2nd Rd. R.L. Challenge Cup	
25—Hunslet	A 15—7	26—Oldham	H 0—33
OCTOBER			
2—Bramley	H 16—7	MARCH	
10—Dewsbury	A 2—18	4—York	A
16—Rochdale H.	H 11—9	11—	
23—Oldham	A 24—19	18—Featherstone R.	A
31—Dewsbury	H 7—12	25—Barrow	H
NOVEMBER			
6—Castleford	A 4—19	APRIL	
13—Workington <i>Players Cup</i>	A 10—0	2—Bradford N.	H
21—Swinton	A 15—20	3—Bradford N.	A
28—Rochdale H. <i>Players Cup</i>	A 14—4	9—Widnes	H
DECEMBER			
4—York (2-30 p.m.)	H 14—16	15—Doncaster	H
11—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.)	A P		
12—Wakefield <i>Players Cup</i>	A 12—18		
19—Widnes	A 3—28		
27—Castleford (2-30 p.m.)	H 2—18		

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