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Promotions Manager :
ALAN TAYLOR

Brian Batty of the Mail

The slender possibility that Rugby League might have the chance to expand in the distant future is heartening news as we enter the New Year.

If ever the game needed a severe massage to revive its ailing limbs it is now.

That is why it is interesting to note that the American broadcasting company C.B.S. is taking films of the game in this country.

They have, in the past, shown many of our Wembley Cup Finals in the States purely as entertainment value.

Now they intend to show films of the high scoring Aussie schoolboys in action against Great Britain schoolboys for entirely different reasons.

It is felt that League could be successfully introduced as a winter game over there, particularly when the conditions are unsuitable for their own grid iron rugby.

I know from meeting American grid iron officials that there is a feeling League would appeal to their fans.

Bob Lustig, president of the wealthy National League side Buffalo Bills, has been greatly impressed with the last two Wembley finals.

"League is a hard game but not, perhaps, as dangerous as ours," he told me. "But the physical contact, handling and kicking make it equally spectacular.

"It comes over well with the atmosphere of a big crowd and I would like to see it given a go in the States."

World Cup coach Jim Challinor and Great Britain skipper Clive Sullivan are two men who would dearly love to see the Yanks give our game a trial.

"I am sure the Americans would be impressed with the League games between Australia and Great Britain for these schoolboys impressed me tremendously with their skill and power," said Challinor.

"Neither the Americans nor the Australians have really taken to Soccer but with their sort of money in sport they could make a success of League."

Sullivan's reaction was: "We desperately need to expand. It would be great to think of another country playing League."

With the recent talk of South African businessmen hoping to introduce professionalism in their country it is to be hoped we hear of some definite developments.

CLUB NEWS

On Monday of this week I received a letter from Sarnia Publishing Co., the publishers of our Rugby News stating that due to lack of sales they could no longer publish our newspaper.

Although we realised when this venture started we would have to sell 2,000 copies through the newsagents we felt that this could be achieved, unfortunately last week W. H. Smiths notified Sarnia Publishing that they wanted their allocation cut to 800 copies. On cold, hard finance, this would mean that the publishers would stand to lose about £80 per edition. If they had continued this would have meant financial suicide especially for a small company such as this. However, I do feel that more effort on their part, regarding outside distribution and advertising could have had a better result, whether this would have resulted in another 1,200 copies, I cannot say. The sales of the paper at the ground very nearly doubled against last year's programme sales, so at least it was appreciated by most of our die-hards.

The only thing from a Club point of view is that this experiment cost us nothing, as the publishing company guaranteed to stand any loss.

FIVE HOURS OF SPORTS COVERAGE ON 206 METRES M.W. AND 95.1 V.H.F.

FRIDAY : Sports Round North West 7-30 p.m.—8-00 p.m.
SATURDAY : Repeat : Saturday 9-00 a.m.—9-30 a.m.
SATURDAY : Sports Round North West 12-30 p.m.—1-00 p.m.
SATURDAY : Sports Round North West 2-33 p.m.—5-00 p.m.
SUNDAY : Sports Round-up North West 6-03 p.m.— 6-30 p.m.
Repeat : Sunday 10-33 a.m.—11-00 a.m.
Rugby League Special 6-03 p.m—6-10 p.m.

OLDHAM RUGBY NEWS

Barrow is proving quite a recruiting ground for Oldham, who recently snapped up on professional forms 21-year-old full back Geoff Worrall from the Furness amateur club, Roose.

And Geoff had a very good debut as a pro, landing four goals in the "A" team's 29—5 win against Barrow "A" — his home town club — and having the misfortune to see another huge touchline kick strike an upright.

He was recommended to Oldham by our scout in the north-west and did more than sufficient in three "A" team trials to convince club officials that he ought to be signed.

Also on view, for the first time, in last Saturday's reserve game was Blackpool's second-row man Fred Hall, whom Oldham have signed on a loan basis.

"We had a good side out, and both newcomers came through very well indeed", said secretary Kevin Wilkinson.

It's many years at Watersheddings since an Oldham player enjoyed a ten-year benefit. But, subject to Rugby League Council approval, that's the honour soon to be bestowed on the club's popular hooker, Kevin Taylor.

Taylor, like winger Mike Elliott, has now completed a decade of service at Watersheddings, and the committee recently approved his written application for benefit efforts to be staged in the next 12 months.

Only tentative arrangements can be made until Council approval is forthcoming from Leeds, but it can be anticipated that the code's governing body will give their go-ahead.

In the meantime, we will attempt to form a working committee of interested people to help run the money-making efforts, initial ideas include the sale of special testimonial ties and lapel badges, decorated with some special motif.

"What we have in mind is to form a committee of about seven or eight people to act as a liaison body for the benefit and they will be able to form various sub-committees to ensure that the efforts are a roaring success.

"The sale of testimonial ties always proves popular and we would welcome ideas of a special design to associate the ties directly with Kevin."

Kevin has always been a popular player at Watersheddings, and in the last ten years has proved himself beyond question in the highly competitive world of R.L. hookers.

The standard of hookers in recent years has improved tremendously and there are now many number 9's in the game who are equally as effective in the loose as they are in the middle of the front-row of the scrum.

Mick Stephenson (Dewsbury), Dick Evans (Swinton), Ian Entwistle (Huddersfield), Kevin Ashcroft (Warrington), Tony Karalius (St. Helens), and Alan Ward (Leeds), immediately spring to mind as good, all-round players, not merely quick strikers of the ball in the scrum.

In the face of ever-increasing competition Kevin Taylor still ranks as one of the best — and he has many seasons left yet, as his brilliant form in the last few weeks has proved.

IT IS HOPED THAT THIS LOCAL LAD REAPS THE REWARD HE DESERVES FOR TEN YEARS' LOYAL SERVICE TO THE CLUB HE SUPPORTED AS A BOY, AND ALWAYS DREAMED OF REPRESENTING ON THE FIELD.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' LOUNGE

Owing to the limited space in the lounge, only Vice-Presidents will be allowed in the lounge after matches.

Due to reorganisation the Pavilion Bar will be closed after matches, you can, however, go to the Social Club where all the bars will be open.

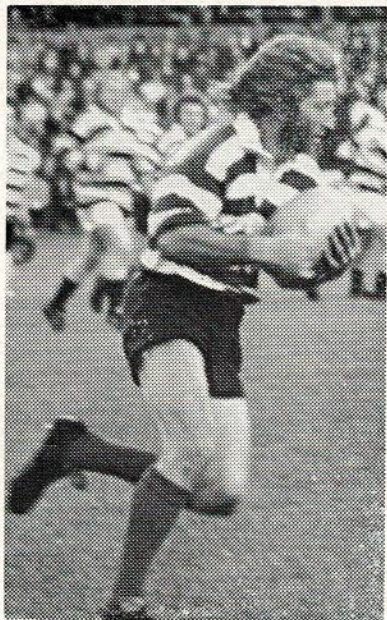
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Spotlight on **MARTIN MURPHY**

photo Oldham Chronicle

Sport is perhaps unique in the way it so often plunges an unknown towards the big-time by the strangest quirk of fate . . . and so it was on that day in 1967 when three Oldham representatives — a club scout and two officials — huddled on the windswept touchline of an amateur ground in Leigh in a bid to discover a star of the future.

It was a Lancashire inter-town match to which the Oldham officials had gone "on spec". Former Oldham secretary John Stringer, now the administrative man at Leigh, remembers it well.

For it was he, club chairman Ken Fisher, and the scout, who got their heads together and made the first move towards unearthing a player Oldham now value at £10,000 — Martin Murphy.

But it was only a flash of inspiration by the Oldham officials that made them look twice at the slight-of-build, tousle-haired teenager who was the Leigh town full back that day.

"There didn't seem to be much to look at", says Mr. Stringer, "and the club scout actually made a comment to that effect. But Mr. Fisher said, 'Hang on a minute what about the little full back?', and we decided before the end of the game to offer him trials".

That's how speedy Murphy, brilliant now on defence and attack, and a player whom Oldham regard as one of the Northern League's best full backs, took the first steps on the road to Watersheddings, two Lancashire appearances, and an undisputed claim as a player worthy of international consideration.

After three "A" team trials he signed the dotted line to join a huge army of Leigh lads who have sought fame and fortune at Watersheddings since the war.

He quickly made an impact with his speed off the mark and his hard, low, and effective tackling, but just as Murphy is now chasing the shadow of Great Britain full back Paul Charlton, he had to face competition from Derek Whitehead in his early days at Watersheddings.

So apart from the occasional full back appearance, Murphy came along on the wing as he settled down to the rigours of senior football.

Since then he has represented Oldham at full back, scrum-half, stand-off half and centre, every position, in fact, in the back line.

But full back was and always will be, his first love — and in recent seasons he has emerged as a thoroughly exciting player of the highest calibre.

In many ways, his ability to cover ground like greased lightning and bring down a winger in full flight, and his skill at carving out openings by joining the attack, is so reminiscent of that great Rochdale full back of the fifties Teddy Cahill.

Like Cahill, Martin is not a kicking full back, and one feels that this has always been against him when the game's representative honours have been going around . . . until the last two years, that is.

The British selectors have now shown an apparent change in attitude by going for Salford's Charlton in their international team, and it is fair to assume that but for the brilliance of the Cumbrian — his 27 tries this season have broken the all-time try-scoring record for a full back — Murphy would have been well in the running for the red, white and blue jersey of Britain.

He had the right grounding, being reared in the Leigh rugby hot-bed and playing for his town at under-19 and open-age level.

Like Tommy Davies, he had a spell with Wigan "B" under Ted Toohey and then returned to Astley and Tyldesley Colliery.

In those days, Martin sometimes played scrum-half, but always felt most at home at the back of the team.

He regards both defence and attack as a vital part of full back play and loves to join up with the threequarters.

"You have a good opportunity to look for the opening from full back, and sometimes I can see the gap first", says Martin.

"When that happens I either link up or call for a short kick over the top to follow through."

It was this tactic superbly put into operation by Frank Foster, that led to Murphy's creating of one of Oldham's best tries this season — the fourth against Leigh when he brilliantly went through to put Phil Larder over.

The secret of Murphy's success undoubtedly lies in his great speed off the mark. He is so quick that even an error of judgement can be covered up, and many times he has literally turned round and caught attackers after they have looked home and dry for the line.

Martin lives with his mother in Nel Pan Lane, Leigh, and is on Oldham's transfer list, at his own request, of course, at £10,000.

Recently, he has been considering the possibility of playing in Australia during the English close season, and he put in a written request to the committee this week.

Whatever happens, however, one thing is sure: Oldham fans will be keen to see Murphy as Oldham's reliable No. 1 for many seasons to come.

He believes the game's administrators should stick to the six-tackle rule, and would dearly love to see the scrums cleaned-up.

"But the difficulty is knowing where to start with the scrums", he says.



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16

- 1—MURPHY M.
- 2—ELLIOTT M.
- 3—LARDER P. *5 goals*
- 4—WAINWRIGHT T. *try*
- 5—HODGKINSON N.
- 6—HILL C.
- 7—McCONE M.
- 8—WILSON K. *try*
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—ASHCROFT K.
- 11—IRVING R.
- 12—HALL F.
- 13—FARRELL J.
- 14—DAVIES T.
- 15—DALEY A.

Referee

K. ALLATT (Huddersfield)

THE

GREENS

For All
Local Sport

YORK

10

- 1—WALLACE R.
- 2—HILL C.
- 3—SHEEHAN D.
- 4—QUINN S. *5 goals*
- 5—RIPPON D.
- 6—~~A. N. OTHER~~ *Young*
- 7—SMITH G.
- 8—DICKSON M.
- 9—WALKER D.
- 10—FORSYTH C.
- 11—DUNHAM F.
- 12—MORGAN A.
- 13—DEIGHTON A.
- 14—WEST B.
- 15—A. N. OTHER

Touch Judges

P. M. Oliver (Bolton) Red

J. Casey (St. Helens) Orange

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		F.	A.
1972			
Aug.	19—Huddersfield	A	25—7
	23—Whitehaven	H	30—13
	26—Workington T.	H	19—5
	28—York	A	32—8
Sept.	1—Salford, Lancs. Cup	A	17—41
	10—Hull	H	27—2
	17—Huyton	A	25—13
	23—Play. No. 6 1st R.	A	10—17
	29—Wigan	A	12—9
Oct.	3—Salford (Fl. Cup)	H	12—8
	7—St. Helens	H	12—12
	14—Workington T.	A	10—17
	22—Widnes	H	17—18
Nov.	4—Huddersfield	H	7—7
	7—Castleford F.C.	H	9—7
	12—Huyton	H	22—0
	17—Hull	A	17—14
	25—Wigan	H	11—6
Dec.	1—St. Helens	A	10—24
	5—Leigh F.Cup. Semi		8—10
	10—Salford	H	12—14
	17—Dewsbury	A	16—12
	24—Leigh	H	24—4
	26—Rochdale H.	A	14—16
	31—Warrington	A	10—20
1973			
Jan.	6—Whitehaven	A	0—9
	14—York	H	16—10
	19—Barrow	A	
	27—Barrow Ch. Cup		
	1st Rd.	H	
Feb.	4—Leigh	A	
	11—Blackpool B.	H	
	17—Chal. Cup 2nd Rd.		
	25—Widnes	A	
Mar.	4—Warrington	H	
	11—Barrow	H	
	18—Blackpool B.	A	
Apr.	1—Dewsbury	H	
	8—Swinton	H	
	21—Swinton	A	
	23—Rochdale	H	

OUR VISITORS . . . YORK

There has been a sharp wind of change blowing across the ancient city of York, with its Roman walls and world-renowned Minster, in the last two years . . . and there is nothing of the ancient about the present York R.L. outfit which comes to Watersheddings this week-end anxious to wipe out the memory of a heavy defeat by Oldham at Clarence Street last August.

In many ways, York have risen from the depths of despair in almost parallel fashion to the way in which Oldham have picked themselves off the floor in recent seasons.

It all began a year ago when York, under the double-barrelled influence of Tommy Harris and Gary Cooper, began a re-building job both on and off the field which almost overnight made York a name to be feared again in the Northern Rugby League.

From down in the league's lower regions they made a startling recovery and shook many a side, still believing York to be a walk-over, as they rose majestically up the table.

A heavy cup defeat by St. Helens, however, was a bitter disappointment which left its mark . . . and after an internal upheaval Cooper and the long-serving Harris parted company with York who, in turn, appointed former Featherstone supremo Laurie Gant as new coach and team boss.

Gant was a man whose previous departure from Post Office Road left a gap in his life which could be filled only by one thing — a return to R.L. football.

As a former player with Featherstone, whom he represented at Wembley against Workington in the early 'fifties, and a grade-one referee and qualified coach, Laurie was destined not to be out of the game for long . . . and since he took control at Clarence Street, York have picked up the pieces left by the big split to again emerge as a real striking force in the game.

They have gathered together a strong and forceful pack which includes two of Gant's old pack powers at Post Office Road — the huge Mal Dixon and the strong-running and hard-grafting Arnie Morgan.

At Clarence Street in August, Oldham caught the Minster men on the hop when missing several first-teamers through injury.

Even so, Oldham had a battle on their hands for half an hour or so after which York were overrun by a side bursting for points, in similar manner to the way in which they disposed of York last season.

At that time, Oldham were slap in the middle of their huge run of success of early-1972, and the match will long be remembered for the brilliant solo try registered by Norman Hodgkinson.

Norman also scored twice at Clarence Street in August, so York are going to be on the watch for his speed and elusive running today.

The match will provide Oldham, who have now won only two of their last eight fixtures, with quite a struggle — but it is one in which they must succeed if they are to retain a respectable position in the table.

York — and Gant — will have something to say about that, and one hopes they will be left wondering just what they missed when Tony Wainwright opted to sign for Oldham last autumn.

For York, like Hull and Bradford Northern, showed more than a passing interest in the Leeds lad before he became an Oldham player.

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If you would have a try. See what you can do. You may not do very well but at least you will have shown willing. On the other hand you may surprise yourself and build up quite a good agency. One that helps you to all the benefits of being an agent and also helps the Club to bigger and better success. So don't leave it to someone else, you have a go!

Next week we shall be sending out letters to all Newsagents in the Town seeking their co-operation. This will be the introduction of a scheme that is new to Oldham but established in quite a few other towns up and down the country. It is seen as a means of increasing the pool quickly and efficiently. We hope you give your newsagent your wholehearted support.

Our Cheese and Wine Party

Our sincere thanks are due to Mrs. Anne Potter for organising the very successful get-together for Pools Agents on Thursday, the 4th January. This took place in the new Vice-Presidents' lounge and was well attended.

Anne who is an ardent supporter and ex-Rugby Club Queen now runs a successful catering service for Parties, Weddings, Anniversaries, Social Evenings, etc. She tells us she caters for numbers both large and small, and does quite a few in people's own homes.

OLDHAM RUGBY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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1972 CHRISTMAS DRAW

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1 £20 Suit Voucher	Jacksons Tailors	38494
2 Turkey	H. Ashworth	38214
3 Chicken	G. Starkey	22044
4 Party Lights	F. Diskin	15055
5 Whisky	D. Hulme	9094
6 Whisky	W. Jinks	9583
7 Glasses	I. de Paiva	28011
8 Biscuits	I. de Paiva	15598
9 Cigars	S. Hawley	3878
10 Lamp	Park Metals	37126
11 Half-bottle Rum	J. Higgins	33535
12 Pen	Oldham Chronicle	39887
13 Liqueurs	Bob Irving	17610
14 Torch	F. Diskin	9168
15 Gin	Greenhall Whitley	40057
16 Tea Set	H. Miles	38671
17 Shopping Bag	Supporters' Club	37738
18 Champagne	B. Day	346660
19 Stool	K. Broadbent	25971
20 Pen Set	Supporters' Club	6227
21 Turkey	H. Ashworth	38239
22 Chipper	Supporters' Club	35369
23 Gas Lighter	Supporters' Club	34665
24 Sherry	W. Jinks	25505
25 Alarm Clock	Park Metals	22019
26 Brush Set	Supporters' Club	4242
27 Glasses	Supporters' Club	40003
28 Torch	F. Diskin	9734
29 Rose Bowl	Supporters' Club	25776
30 Kitchen Set	Supporters' Club	14622
31 Knife Set	Supporters' Club	29727
32 Wine	P. G. Carter	41301
33 Lantern	E. Slater	15025
34 Decanter	Supporters' Club	21714
35 Chipper	Supporters' Club	22872
36 Half-bottle Whisky	J. Bowden	32853

PRIZE	
37	Brandy
38	Half-bottle Whisky
39	Kitchen Scales
40	Non-stick Pan
41	Sherry
42	Gent's Brolly
43	Lady's Brolly
44	Kitchen Set
45	Mantel Clock
46	Cannisters
47	Wall Can Opener
48	Pen Set
49	Glasses
50	Rum
51	Kitchen Set
52	Spice Set
53	Half-bottle Rum
54	Bread Bin
55	Place Mats
56	Glasses
57	Torch
58	Cherry Brandy
59	Gas Lighter
60	Sherry
61	Waste Bin
62	Stool
63	Chicken
64	Gas Lighter
65	Gin
66	Rum
67	Hairdressers Voucher
68	Chicken
69	Torch
70	Chocolates
71	Pork
72	Whisky
73	Sherry
74	Glasses
75	Electric Blanket
76	Holdall
77	Pale Ale Packs
78	Pale Ale Packs
79	Turkey
80	Glasses
81	Whisky
82	Tea Set
83	Electric Blanket
84	Gin
85	Wine
86	Glasses
87	Hand Towels
88	Place Mats
89	Flask
90	Glasses
91	Wall Can Opener
92	Hand Towels
93	Chicken
94	Chicken
95	Chicken
96	Half-bottle Whisky
97	Handbag
98	Bath Set
99	Car Service
100	Six Visits to Sauna
101	Electric Blanket
102	Whisky
103	Sherry
104	Whisky
105	Sherry
106	Half-bottle Whisky
107	Advocaat
108	Half-bottle Whisky
109	Half-bottle Brandy
110	Cigarettes
111	Whisky
112	Chicken

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C. Farnworth	
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T. Ormerod	
T. Ormerod	
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A. Walker	
A. Walker	
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R. Hartley	
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R. Hardaker	
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H. Boyes	

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22878	
26071	
6218	
15031	
1460	
21041	
15277	
21040	
8149	
9793	
18516	
16639	
21853	
18806	
4774	
33557	
39799	
21241	
15491	
7204	
31280	
38869	
34635	
27110	
0014	
8481	
9707	
29383	
8581	
5970	
8400	
33742	
13783	
16850	
17718	
17592	
33097	
24565	
20885	
25506	
15132	
40030	
3504	
2059	
10651	
5724	
34604	
29162	
17328	
15127	
39055	
8671	
25630	
41419	
13110	
11263	
9179	
4604	
3463	
8743	
33316	
40028	
13297	
26136	
28005	
1481	
9570	
14938	
20466	
32234	
14318	
23664	
38988	
6551	
17095	
1504	

Outstanding feature
of the Rugby League season!

The Player's N°6 Trophy

Big prizes. Big excitement.



Right from the start the Player's N°6 Trophy was a success — both with the players and spectators.

And this year — with the prize-money raised to a record £16,000 — it's an even bigger success.

This 5-round, 32-club knock-out series really has taken its place as the outstanding event in the Rugby League season.

Make a date with Player's

N°6

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