

Oldham 18

- 1 BLAIR, J.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M. *try*
- 3 LARDER, P. *3 goals*
- 4 BARTON, E.
- 5 HOLLAND, I. *try*
- 6 TREASURE, D. *try*
- 7 McCONE, M. *try*
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 HALL, F.
- 11 WELDING, R.
- 12 GREGORY, B.
- 13 FARRELL, J.
- 14 BROWN, D.
- 15 HUGHES, B.

Referee:
J. McDonald (Wigan)

Huyton 7

- 1 WHITFIELD, A.
- 2 LEATHERBARROW, D.
- 3 LLOYD, T.
- 4 From HAMMELL, T.
- 5 ~~TICKLE, R.~~
- 6 EVANS, J.
- 7 NUTTALL, A.
- 8 GORMAN, T.
- 9 WATTS, D. *2 goals*
- 10 PARRY, D.
- 11 DAVIES, D.
- 12 From WALSHAW, G. *Davies*
- 13 WILLIAMS, N.
- 14 ~~WILLS, K.~~
- 15 WESTHEAD, L. *try*

B. Baker (Wigan) Red
J. E. Lloyd (Warrington) Orange

OLDHAM MAN OF MATCH

Fill in the coupon below to nominate the Oldham player, who in your opinion was the most outstanding in today's match,

Drop your voting slip in at the Secretary's office, or Souvenir Shop, on your way home, or post it to reach us no later than 3 days after the game to "Man of the Match" The Pavilion Watersheddings, Oldham.

Name

Address

The Man of the Match
v HUYTON

was *Johnny Farrell*

OLDHAM PLAYER OF YEAR

At the end of the season, the player who has received most Man of the Match votes over the whole season will become Oldhams Player of the Year.

All voting slips will be kept, and the Player of the Year will be asked to draw one out at random when he receives his award. The lucky voter will receive a £20 cash prize, so don't forget your name and address when you cast your vote—YOU could be on a winner as well as the player for whom you vote.

xx Only voting slips from the Oldham programme will be accepted—plain paper votes will be void.

VOTED MAN OF MATCH

v. HULL
J. FARRELL

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OLDHAM 18

v

HUYTON 7



—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

CONGRATULATIONS to all concerned for that terrific 10-2 win at Whitehaven last Friday night. It's never easy to win up there in West Cumbria but to do so against a home side that was on top of the world after recent wins against Leigh at home and Hull K.R. away was indeed a fabulous performance.

On a wicked night, and at the end of a long coach trip, our boys rolled up their sleeves to produce their best and most hard-working show of the season.

They handled the slippery ball superbly, tackled tenaciously from start to finish, and scored the only tries of the game — two beauties by Brian Gregory and Mike Elliott.

Word must be made, too, of the way Phil Larder produced a top-class piece of centre play to set up Mike's try, and defied the conditions to land two vital goals.

The victory puts us back on course for our target of promotion, and if we pick up two more league points today we will be well up there challenging to hit the top.

Today, we welcome back to Watersheddings our former 'A' team coach Terry Gorman, who has taken over as team boss at Huyton and by all accounts is doing a good job in leading his side to their best start to a season for many, many years.

At the time these notes were written it was not known whether Frank Walker, our prop-forward who is on trial at Alt Park, would be in today's side but no doubt officials of the two clubs will be in talks after the match to discuss Frank's future.

We would be sorry to see Frank depart from Watersheddings. He has proved himself a good ball-player and a great 'A' team skipper, but his first-team opportunities are limited and it would be unfair to stand in his way.

WELCOME home to Martin Murphy, who is now back with us at Watersheddings after his summer trip to Australia.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Treasure, who became a father last week-end when his wife Pam produced an eight-pound baby boy—Paul David—in a Pontefract hospital.

Many supporters were no doubt puzzled last week to read in the Press of Brian Gregory's so-called transfer request—and then to see the story refuted 24 hours later.

It must be emphasised that at no time did Brian ask to be placed on the transfer list and, contrary to many reports, he was not 'fined' because of his sending off against Hull.

In any event, the club is not concerned with this business of "fining" players which is purely a friendly and amicable agreement between the players and the two coaches, Jim Challinor and Ken Wilson.

The money which accrues from "fines" merely goes into a players' kitty anyway—so it's hardly the sort of thing for anyone to get upset about.

Brian's disciplinary case will be heard in Leeds on Thursday.

We are doing our utmost to prove to the satisfaction of the disciplinary committee that he was under extreme provocation and in addition to Brian's personal appearance, we will produce pictures of his face, and tapes of commentator Ron Marlor's match report on Radio Manchester.

Finally, if you haven't already got your stand ticket for the big match against Bradford Northern on November 9 do it today without delay.

The supply is fast being swallowed up and we ask all our supporters to really do their best to answer Jim Challinor's plea — made elsewhere in this programme — for a big turn-out on the day.



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TWO weeks today Oldham take on Bradford Northern in the second round of the Player's No. 6 Trophy . . . and I would like to take this opportunity of asking you all to help us knock over Northern and so progress to the third round of this money-spinning competition.

How can you help? Easy—make sure you're in the stand or on the terraces to shout for us and, if possible, bring along a friend to help swell the vocal support for Oldham.

It really does matter for a side to have supporters rooting for them. I know from my own playing days that a good crowd and an electric atmosphere puts players on their mettle. It makes them conscious of the occasion — as proved time and again by the way in which any side, not only Oldham, can lift its game for a big match and then shape none too well in a game where there is little at stake and for which there is little pre-match enthusiasm by the Press and public.

So often these days I really feel sorry for the players.

I remember my early days at Warrington . . . how we were surrounded by supporters as the team coach pulled into a ground on an away trip . . . how, when we played at home, we left the tunnel to a fantastic roar and that inspiring music, "March of the Gladiators" . . . how youngsters mobbed us for autographs as we fought to get through the crowds to the sanctuary of the dressing room.

There was no need for the coach to motivate us in the dressing room. The "occasion" was set up for us all by the excitement of the supporters and we would have to run through a brick wall to justify, on the field, the faith our spectators were putting in us off it.

But what happens today? When the lads arrive 45 minutes before kick off there very often isn't a soul in sight. Even when they leave the tunnel, the majority of spectators are still draining their glasses in the bars or coming through the turnstiles at the last minute.

Northern have a terrific following and their supporters will be here in their thousands. Please, please do your best to show the Oldham lads that they, too, have the support of the town behind them.

There are three positive things I would ask you to do.

* **BRING A FRIEND** — that might not be too easy, but something I'm sure many of you can achieve with a bit of persuasion.

* **BE AT THE GROUND EARLY** . . . so that you've taken your place for when the teams come out.

* **SHOUT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SHOUTED BEFORE** . . . so that the players know they're not just playing for their own wage packets but for their supporters, too.

Believe me, and I say this sincerely, there will be nothing more inspiring for Oldham on the day than to hear that terrific chant of "Oldham, Oldham."

With collective effort all round, we can drown the shouts of the Bradford "invaders", show the whole country that Rugby League in Oldham is very much alive and kicking, and inspire our side — and in the widest sense it's as much your side as mine — to deliver the knock-out to our First Division opponents.

I can honestly say that the team spirit in the dressing room and behind the scenes is as good as any I have experienced throughout my Rugby League travels.

I have been preaching recently that it is up to the players to take that same team spirit with them on the field — and the signs were very much in evidence at Whitehaven that we are now doing just that.

I know the lads will do their bit on November 9.

LET'S MAKE IT AN OCCASION FOR THE WHOLE TOWN — AND ONE THAT WE'RE ALL PREPARED TO ENTER INTO AS A COLLECTIVE BODY OF PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS WITH ONE AIM IN MIND.

OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

After a rather gloomy close season in which there were threats of Huyton dropping out of the league, Huyton find themselves midway up the table with three wins from six outings. Two of their victories have been most decisive for they defeated Doncaster 25-0 at home and won 20-0 at Batley. The victory which really made the critics sit up and take notice was the 21-20 home victory over Hull Kingston Rovers who were expected to walk their way out of Division Two. Huyton are, in fact, undefeated at home, for their three defeats have all be away from home at Leigh (12-20), Huddersfield (4-19) and Workington Town (7-35).

In cup football Huyton have also raised a few eyebrows this season. In the Lancashire Cup they defeated Whitehaven at home 22-15 to record their first victory in this competition since 1967 when they won 13-10 up at Whitehaven. The quarter-final draw took them to Salford where only a last minute conversion by Keith Felding gave Salford a most undeserved victory by 17-15. In the Players Trophy Huddersfield visited Alt Park and looked to be coasting to victory when they led 12-6 midway through the second half but Huyton recovered to snatch a 14-12 win thanks to a last minute try. Huyton now visit Warrington in the second round and they certainly will not be dismayed by Warrington's cup fighting reputation.

If Huyton surprise the Oldham rugby public this afternoon by pulling off a victory, it will be the Merseyside club's first win at Watersheddings since season 1968-69 when they scored a league double over Oldham by winning 13-5 at Watersheddings and 7-3 at Widnes. Since that season Oldham have won seven of the eight matches between the two clubs. In 1969-70 Huyton won 9-2 at home but lost 37-7 at Oldham. The following season Oldham won 23-4 away and 17-2 at home and followed this up by winning

29-9 at home and 44-5 away in the following campaign. Last season the clubs did not meet but the previous term (1972-73) Oldham again scored a double win by 25-13 away and 22-0 here at Watersheddings.

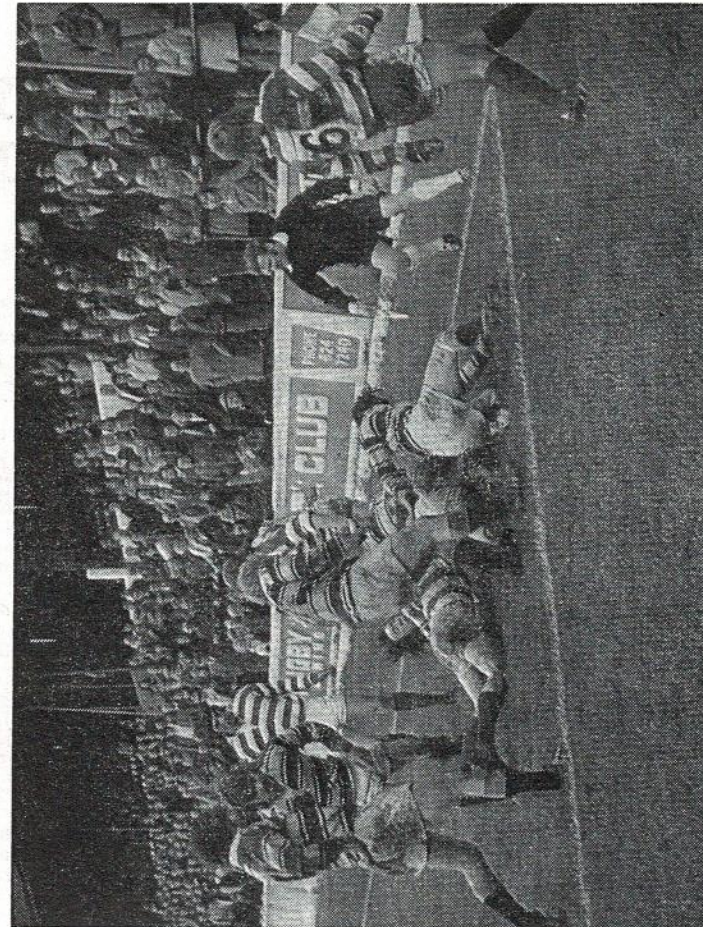
Oldham's 29-9 win in September 1971 was the first victory of the season for the Watersheddings side who began that 1971-72 season in disastrous fashion but who, just before Christmas clicked into form and ended the season in triumphant fashion. For that visit of Huyton to Oldham, coach Graham Starkey decided to introduce the veteran Alan Kellett into the Oldham line-up and his promptings enabled Oldham to jump into a 12-0 interval lead which pleased the crowd of 1,837. Huyton rallied a little after the interval but Oldham still managed to dominate the proceedings and ended up winners by 29 points to 9. Oldham's score came from tries by Trevor Buckley, Martin Murphy (2) and Ray Clark (2) plus six goals from Phil Larder and a drop goal from Alan Kellett. Huyton's three tries were scored by Les Westhead (2) and Eric Cole.

The sides were:

OLDHAM—Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Trevor Buckley, Norman Hodgkinson; Alan Kellett, Cliff Sayer; Ken Wilson, Eddie Bowden, Dick Bonser, John Alchin, Bill Churm and Ray Clark. Substitutes, Terry Garrett and Kevin Taylor.

HUYTON—Robin Whitefield; Kevin Westhead, Terry Hammell, Johnny Smith, David Leatherbarrow; Brian Grady, Johnny Jackson; Eric Campbell, Eric Cole, Gil Wright, Bill Beven, Bill Burrows and Les Westhead. Substitutes, John Evans and Bob Goulding.

A similar score in Oldham's favour would, no doubt, please Oldham's fans who will feel a little more confident of promotion following last week's excellent win at Whitehaven.



Action replay . . . Brian Gregory goes down under a posse of defenders in the Hull match.



TERRY GORMAN . . . now in charge at Huyton.

Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.



BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

For several years now it has been possible to count the number of top class centres on the fingers of one hand—here and in Australia.

It seems to be the department that has suffered most when measured in terms of lack of ability, personality and potential.

We know that there isn't an abundance of star material on the wings compared with the fifties but this has been balanced a little by some shrewd recruiting from Rugby Union.

Salford's flier Keith Fielding, his teammate Maurice Richards and those strong Welsh finishers John Bevan and Roy Mathias continue to pile up the points while Leeds have had great service from Alan Smith and John Atkinson.

But these men all depend on a strong and subtle service from the middle and no one realises this more than Eric Ashton, who proved one of the game's classiest centres, skipping a Great Britain tour side and Wigan.

It is one of those strange twists of football that he should now be coaching Wigan's fiercest rivals St. Helens, following a short spell at Leeds.

Wigan have Welsh signing Dave Willicombe revealing this season the speed and touches which earned him a Great Britain tour place and a £10,000 transfer from Halifax.

Across the East Lancashire Road the talk centres around the return of John Walsh, who has now completed the exams which forced him to retire after the 1972 World Cup.

The Great Britain centre was, for me, one of the stars of the British success in that competition, forming a solid partnership with Chris Hesketh that helped keep the Australians at bay, particularly in that punishing final.

Walsh has, understandably, taken a few weeks to find his feet or rather his match fitness in the Saints' ranks. But in the recent games has revealed the power, the skill and ruthlessness that must warm the hearts of the international selectors.

His six goals and three tries helped put Keighley in their place and Leeds were next to feel the extent of his talent as he tore their defence to pieces.

Walsh has not only transformed the Saints' back division, he has given it new drive and determination. His tackling and eye for the opening underline his class and there is not a better back in the game with the ball in his hands.

"It is great to be back," he told me recently. "I didn't realise how much I had missed the game. Now I want to get back among the honours with Saints and Great Britain."

I am certain the international selectors are delighted to hear the news—and see the evidence—as are St. Helens.

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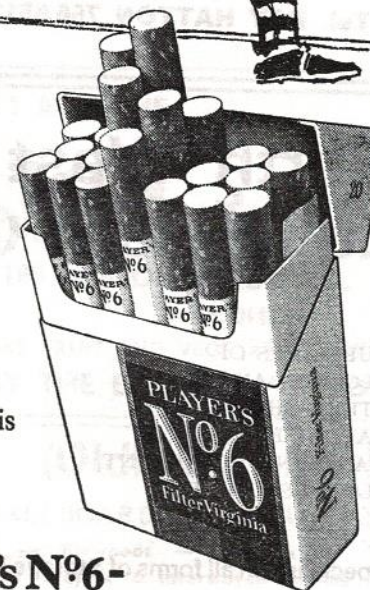
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FIXTURES 1974-75

Aug. 17—Rochdale (Law Cup)	Home	27-15
" 24—Blackpool	Home	17-13
Sept. 1—Widnes (3-15 p.m.)	Home	9-14
" 8—Blackpool	Away	
" 14—Huddersfield	Home	
" 20—Hull K.R. (7-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 28—Player's No. 6 (1st Rnd.)		
Oct. 6—N. Hunslet (3-30 p.m.)	Home	
" 12—Hull	Away	
" 18—Whitehaven (7-00 p.m.)	Home	
" 26—Huyton	Home	
Nov. 3—Swinton	Away	
" 9—Player's No. 6 (2nd Rnd.)		
" 16—Workington	Home	
" 24—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 30—Batley	Home	
Dec. 8—Workington (2-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 14—Hull K.R.	Home	
" 21—		
" 26—Huddersfield	Away	
" 29—Huyton (2-30 p.m.)	Away	
Jan. 4—New Hunslet	Home	
" 11—Doncaster	Home	
" 17—Barrow (7-00 p.m.)	Away	
" 25—Swinton	Home	
Feb. 1—		
" 8—Challenge Cup (1st Rnd.)		
" 15—Leigh (3-45 p.m.)	Away	
" 22—Challenge Cup (2nd Rnd.)		
Mar. 1—Whitehaven	Home	
" 8—		
" 15—Leigh	Home	
" 23—Batley	Away	
" 30—Hull	Away	
Apr. 5—Barrow	Home	
" 12—		
" 19—		

Aug. 24—Blackpool	Away	28-2
" 30—Widnes (7-30 p.m.)	Away	13-10
Sept. 7—Blackpool	Home	
" 13—Salford (7-30 p.m.)	Away	
Oct. 5—Rochdale	Home	
" 12—Wigan	Away	
" 19—St. Helens	Away	
" 26—Huyton	Away	
Nov. 2—Swinton	Home	
" 8—Warrington (7-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 23—Widnes	Home	
" 30—		
" 14—		
" 21—		
" 26—		
" 28—Huyton	Home	
Jan. 4—		
" 11—		
" 18—Barrow	Home	
" 25—Swinton	Away	
Feb. 1—		
" 8—St. Helens	Home	
" 15—Leigh	Home	
" 22—Salford	Home	
Mar. 1—		
" 8—		
" 15—Leigh	Away	
" 21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 29—		
Apr. 5—Barrow	Away	
" 12—Warrington	Home	
" 19—Wigan	Home	

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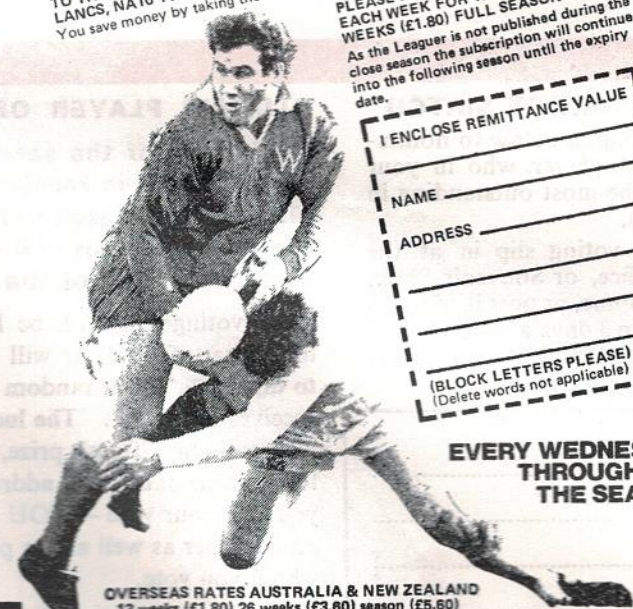
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