

# Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 BARTON, E.
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 5 O'BRIEN, C.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 KEAR B.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 FLANAGAN, K.
- 13 PETERS A.
- 14 BLAIR J.
- 15 BROWN, E.

Referee:

B. Shooman (Leeds)

# Hull K R

- 1 WALLACE, R.
- 2 DUNN, G.
- 3 KIRKPATRICK, G.
- 4 HALL, D.
- 5 SULLIVAN, C.
- 6 BIRWELL, A.
- 7 MILLWARD, R.
- 8 MILLINGTON, J.
- 9 HESLOP, D.
- 10 LYONS, S.
- 11 HOLDSTOCK, S.
- 12 ROSE, P.
- 13 CASEY, L.
- 14 TURNER, G.
- 15 JONES, G.

R. J. Percival (Warrington) Red

J. A Unsworth (St Helens) 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
HULL K R
was .....

## 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 CASTLEFORD

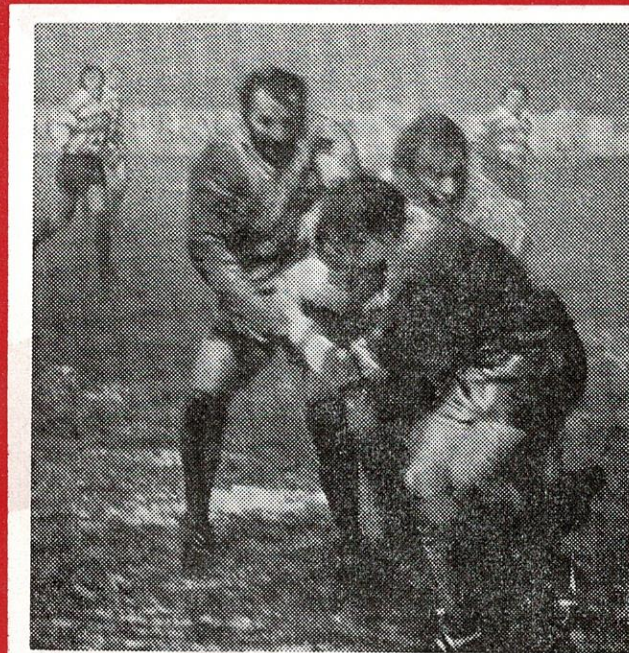
Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

# OLDHAM

## HULL K R

SUNDAY JANUARY 11th

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Spot the ball! A close tussle by players of both sides in the match against Castleford last Sunday.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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## OLDHAM OUTLOOK

MAY we apologise to those supporters who were inconvenienced by the effects of storm damage to the stands last week-end.

We do have control over some things at Watersheddings: we don't have control, sadly, over an English winter! The storm blew off several sheets of asbestos from the main stand roof at the Waterhead end and, in view of safety demands, we felt it wise to shut down two blocks of the stand for the Castleford match.

This inevitably inconvenienced some supporters—not only those who were unable to sit in their normal seats but also those who had to “squeeze up”, as it were, to accommodate in other sections of the stand the fans who were forced out of their regular places.

Apologies to all concerned... but we hope that all will be rectified in time for today's encounter. Men were on the roof first thing Monday morning and were hopeful that, weather permitting, the job would be completed in time for today's match.

It is an important match for us, coming as it does so soon after our narrow defeat by Castleford, and one we need to win to keep our position just outside the bottom four.

The battle to stay out of the bottom four is becoming very tight indeed, with Huddersfield and Warrington picking up in recent weeks and throwing out a big challenge to those clubs—Oldham among them—who are just above them.

The Challenge Cup, too, will be with us shortly and you will all have read in the Press that we are drawn to play Huyton at Alt Park.

The match has been fixed for Sunday, February 15 at 3 p.m. and, for obvious reasons, we hope as many fans as possible will make the trip.

Our club chairman, Arthur Walker, has already said in the Press that there

will be more Oldhamers at the tie than Huyton people.

This can make a tremendous difference to the performance of a visiting team, particularly in a cup tie, and we trust you will all do your best, as you have done so often in the cup, to give our boys the best possible “send off” on the traditional Wembley trail.

Twice in the last three seasons we have reached the third round — and who will forget the terrific tussles last season, both with Rochdale (home and away) and Widnes, who went on to win at Wembley.

While talking of the Cup it would be remiss of us not to give a special pat on the back to Pointer Panthers of Castleford, for their terrific achievement in reaching the first round proper and earning an away tie at Leigh.

The club was formed only five years ago by a group of voluntary helpers, including Brian Lloyd, who now does a tremendous job for us in unearthing talent on the other side of the Pennines.

Currently in the Pointer side is Brian Lund, brother of our winger, Steve, who had trials here last season. And many of our Yorkshire squad of players have had associations with the Panthers in the past, including Johnny Paterson, Dickie Brown, Terry Ramshaw (in a coaching capacity), David Treasure, and Paul Starbuck, who trained with them as a 14-year-old.

Brian Lloyd tells me they are a good, young open-age side who play attractive football and are a credit to the amateur game.

We all accept that without the amateurs of the code there would be no professionals so congratulations to both the Panthers and Leigh Miners, the Lancashire representatives in the first round proper, but especially to Panthers because of their close ties with so many people here at Watersheddings.



## Chat with Challinor

AS we leave 1975 behind and look forward to what 1976 has in store the time is opportune to reflect on the old year and discuss what we hope to achieve in the new.

Purely on a personal note 1975 began with a disappointment for me when I lost the job of coach to the national side.

But there was plenty of compensation as provided by our achieving of our main aim at Oldham—promotion to the First Division — and what I considered to be a good Challenge Cup run.

In the first round we beat Blackpool at home, followed by the draw at Rochdale, the victory in the replay, and then a very narrow defeat by Widnes in the third round at Watersheddings.

But promotion was the most satisfying achievement of all. Everyone said, at the time, that we would be the chopping blocks of the First Division but I think, in the first half of the season, that we have amply proved that we can hold our own among the elite.

Only Salford have really given us the run-around and while it has to be pointed out that there is plenty of room for improvement it is equally true that we have been very unfortunate indeed not to have another five or six League points which would have hoisted us into the upper reaches of the First Division.

I am thinking particularly of the two defeats by Leeds—in both games we were equally as good as them—and the home defeat by Wigan when we did very well indeed until we fell apart in the last ten minutes or so.

Indeed, it is interesting to note that we have quite a good record against the teams currently placed second, third, fourth and fifth in the table.

We twice did enough to give Leeds the fright of their lives, we beat Wakefield at Belle Vue, we beat Widnes in the Floodlit Trophy, and we took a

point off Salford at the Willows on New Year's Day — another match which, particularly in the first half, provided us with a clear-cut edge over our opponents.

The other day I was glancing through a business diary and came across ten guidelines for success in business life.

The author wrote that one's business would thrive if one worked hard, studied hard, showed initiative, loved his work, attended to detail, showed courage, adopted a friendly attitude, cultivated personality, wore a smile, and did his best.

Most of these guidelines can be applied to Rugby League football and I think all of us in the game can learn something from them.

It might not be a bad idea, at this time of New Year resolutions, if we adopted at least some of the "business commandments" for 1976 as we bid to stay in the First Division and, hopefully have another good run in the Cup.

As I said last year we are good enough to go all the way, and I think the fact that we ran Widnes, the eventual winners, so close, proved the point.

This time we are blessed with a first-round match against Huyton at Alt Park. This will be a hard tie—and I really do mean a hard one.

Not many people would relish a tie there, partially because Huyton are rarely easy to beat on their own ground and partially because there can so easily be a lack of atmosphere to generate the best in the opposition.

It is one occasion when tip-top following, giving us plenty of vocal support, could work wonders and help to remove from Huyton the advantage of a home draw.

So we have plenty to aim for in the next few months—enough wins to keep us in the First Division and a run in the Challenge Cup.

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Fred Hall, the Oldham second-row forward, looks for the gap in the match against Castleford.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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## OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

This afternoon's visitors to Watersheddings are Yorkshire Cup finalists Hull Kingston Rovers who are led by Roger Millward, England's skipper in the recent World Championship series.

At present the Robins lie in eighth position in the First Division table having won seven and lost five of their League matches. Last week they scored an excellent 14-6 home win over high flying Widnes which must rate as their best League win of the season alongside their 23-12 defeat of Leeds. Unfortunately for Rovers, their form away from home does not match their home form and, although they have won at both Huddersfield (26-16) and Castleford (24-13), they have also suffered some heavy defeats away from Humberside. Leeds beat them 30-5 whilst over here in Lancashire they have lost by 34-13 at Wigan and by 33-11 at Widnes. Those results must give Oldham heart against a side containing so many star personalities.

The last time that Oldham and Hull Kingston Rovers met in the First Division the result was a League double victory for the Robins who won 6-5 here at Watersheddings and by 28-15 on Humberside. That was in season 1973-74 when both sides were relegated to Division Two but last season both clubs gained promotion again when each scored League wins over the other. The match at Craven Park ended in a 17-8 win for Rovers but Oldham gained revenge later in the season by winning at home 15-6. The clubs also met each other last season in the two legged opening round of the Floodlit Cup competition when both matches provided excellent entertainment for the fans. The first leg was staged here at Watersheddings and attracted a crowd of 1,381 who saw a tremendous game of rugby in which both sides committed themselves wholly to attack. In the first half David Treasure scored a try for

Oldham and that, plus the first of Phil Larder's two goals, gave Oldham a 5-2 interval lead but the Robins came back strongly to level the scores at 7-7 with a Roger Millward try and two goals from Neil Fox. Then, in the dying minutes of the game, Tony Wainwright dropped a goal to give Oldham an 8-7 win which did not seem big enough to take to Craven Park for the return leg. The teams for the first leg were:

Oldham—Johnny Blair; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright, Ian Holland; David Treasure, John Pater-son; Terry Clawson, Kevin Taylor, Fred Hall, Bob Welding, Brian Gregory and John Farrell.

Hull Kingston Rovers—Bob Smithies; Clive Sullivan, Bernard Watson, Neil Fox, Ged Dunn; Roger Millward, Terry Hudson; Terry Ramshaw, Ian Madeley, Cliff Wallis, John Moore, Paul Rose and Joe Brown.

With ground advantage, the Robins were confident of quickly wiping out that one point deficit in the second leg but by half time Oldham had increased their lead for they turned round 9-7 in front. After 65 minutes the score was 11-7 in Oldham's favour and their supporters were looking forward to a visit from Wigan in the following round. At that point, however, Rovers staged a magnificent tie-winning revival that caused Oldham, up to then the far better side, to collapse and concede 12 points in the closing 15 minutes to give the Robins a 19-11 win on the night and a 26-19 overall victory.

Those two games were a tremendous advertisement for Rugby League and one hopes that today's game will follow a similar pattern. The last few matches at Watersheddings have suffered because of adverse weather conditions but given anything like a clear day, then these two sides are sure to serve up a feast of football with which to delight the fans.



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## The Odsal Story

by Brian Smith  
(Yorkshire Sports)

Odsal Stadium, Bradford, famous wherever the game is played after housing the world record 102,569 crowd in 1954, is to remain a Rugby League venue.

Bradford Northern have agreed terms with the Bradford Metropolitan Council for a 42-year lease at the huge bowl, which still had room to spare when that massive crowd turned up on a May evening 21 years ago to see Warrington beat Halifax in the historic Challenge Cup final replay.

In recent years there has been considerable doubt about Odsal's future and at one time Northern seemed set to move to the former Park Avenue Soccer ground, a much more compact stadium with a capacity of around 30,000.

But now the local authority, owners of both grounds, have abandoned plans for the switch and Northern will stay at the stadium which has been their home since 1934.

As Rugby League boomed from the late forties to the early sixties, Odsal was a regular venue for Test matches, Championship finals, Cup semi-finals and County Cup finals.

It was the only ground capable of accommodating all those who wanted to attend. Only 15 years ago there were 83,190 there to see a Championship

final between Wakefield Trinity and Wigan. And back in 1953 a third round Challenge Cup clash between Northern and Huddersfield drew a phenomenal 69,429.

There were more than a dozen other instances of gates over 50,000 in the pre-TV days. But last season the two Challenge Cup semi-finals attracted only 22,328 between them and the 9,160 crowd for the Wakefield-Widnes clash looked lost in Odsal's wide-open spaces.

For this reason many folk maintain Odsal should no longer be a key venue for representative games and semi-finals. The ground which was once the only one big enough, is now considered too big in the days of modest crowds because of the consequent lack of atmosphere.

Northern, though, see their future there and with the guarantee of a long lease, they hope to set about gradual improvement work. But it's a massive task. Last year they spent around £6,000 on simple maintenance work which was hardly noticed.

Odsal, however, is full of memories for Rugby League enthusiasts and Northern hope it will be a name to treasure for many years to come.

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## FIXTURES 1975-76

1975

Aug. 10	— Rochdale (Law Cup) .....	A
17	— Warrington .....	A
24	— Keighley .....	H
31	— St. Helens (Lancs. Cup) .....	H
Sept. 7	— Featherstone .....	A
14	— Lancashire Cup—round 2 .....	A
21	— Wigan .....	H
28	— Player's No. 6—Huyton .....	A
Oct. 5	— Keighley .....	A
12	— Huddersfield .....	H
18	— Leeds .....	A
26	— Wakefield .....	A
Nov. 2	— Dewsbury .....	H
9	— Players' No. 6—round 2 .....	H
16	— Salford .....	H
22	— Huddersfield .....	A
30	— Leeds .....	H
Dec. 14	— St. Helens .....	H
21	— Bradford .....	A
26	— Swinton .....	H
Jan. 1	— Salford .....	A
4	— Castleford .....	H
11	— Hull K.R. .....	H
18	— Dewsbury .....	A
25	— Widnes .....	H
Feb. 8	— St. Helens .....	A
15	— Challenge Cup (1) .....	A
21	— Wigan .....	A
29	— Challenge Cup (2) .....	A
Mar. 7	— Wakefield .....	H
12	— Castleford .....	A
21	— Widnes .....	A
28	— Featherstone .....	H
Apr. 7	— Warrington .....	H
11	— Bradford .....	H
16	— Hull K.R. .....	A
19	— Swinton .....	A

F. A. 1975

29- 2 Aug.	30—Swinton (Lancs. Shield) .....	A
— Sept.	6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield) .....	H
13-12	20—Wigan .....	A
17-19 Oct.	4—Swinton .....	H
5-27	18—Warrington .....	H
—	25—Leigh .....	H
10-24 Nov.	14—Salford .....	A
17- 8	29—Rochdale .....	A
17- 8 Dec.	6—Salford .....	H
17-28	13—St. Helens .....	A
15-18	20—Huyton .....	H
23-18	27—Barrow .....	H
15- 6 1976	10—Swinton .....	A
10-37 Jan.	23—Widnes .....	A
—	31—Rochdale .....	H
Feb. 7	— St. Helens .....	H
21	— Wigan .....	H
Mar. 5	— Warrington .....	A
13	— Leigh .....	H
20	— Widnes .....	H
27	— Barrow .....	A
Apr. 3	— Huyton .....	A

12- 7  
29-10

38-17

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