

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER P.
- 4 BOTTOM, S.
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 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 HUGHES, B.

Referee:
K. ALLATT (Huddersfield)

York

- 1 RUSHTON, A.
- 2 BARENDS, D.
- 3 MARSTON, J.
- 4 DAY, T.
- 5 MARSHALL M.
- 6 HUGHES, J.
- 7 SMITH, G.
- 8 CLARKSON, G.
- 9 HANDFORTH, A.
- 10 HARRIS, W.
- 11 RHODES, A.
- 12 HOWLETT, P.
- 13 FOX, N.
- 14 HETHERINGTON, G.
- 15 CAMPBELL, E.

M. R. Whitfield (Widnes) Red
B. Baker (Wigan) 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
YORK

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 Oldham's 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 KR

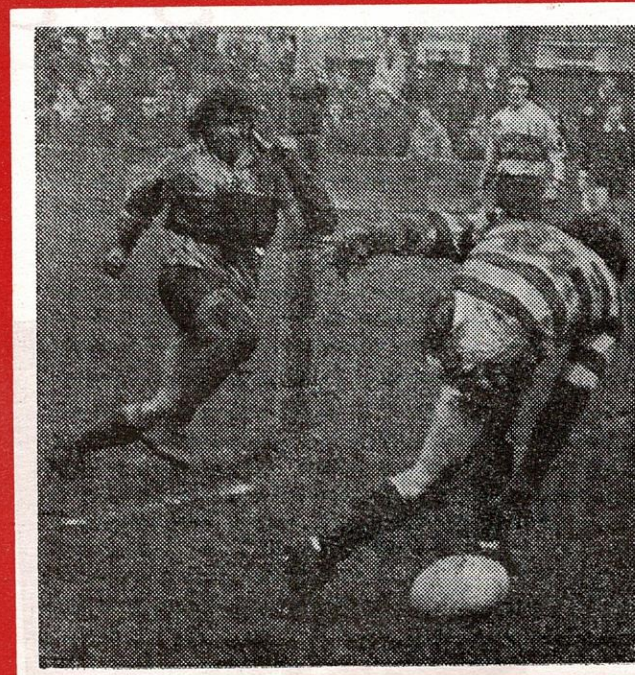
Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

OLDHAM

v YORK

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 29th

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Oldham's third try in the first-round win at Huyton. Stand-off John Blair, having sidestepped his way through a tight defence, touches down behind the posts.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

WELCOME back! It seems a long time since we last had a match here at Watersheddings. Mind you, they always say that things are all the better for the waiting and we feel we couldn't have had a much more attractive return to action than that provided by the "new look" York side today.

There is always something special about a Challenge Cup tie and today's is no exception. We are bidding to reach the third round for the third time in four years and with all their new signings York should provide us with a stiff hurdle to surmount.

We must not fall into the trap of treating them lightly just because they are in a mid-table position in the Second Division.

The side that put York there and the one likely to be on duty today are vastly different teams in many ways. One of the most notable is the inclusion of Neil Fox who, ironically, was sought by the Oldham club when he was released by Hull K.R.

We did, in fact, miss Neil by about half-an-hour so you can rest assured that Jim Challinor and his players know all about the threat he can provide.

On a cash note it is with regret that we had to increase the prices, for both seats and admission, for today's tie.

The plain, honest truth of the matter is that these days Rugby League just doesn't pay its way. We are grateful to every single supporter who passes through the turnstiles—please believe that—but sheer economic facts indicate quite clearly that but for subsidies in the shape of pools income, bar takings, special efforts, supporters' club donations and the like admission money would have to be astronomically high.

Inflation hits us just as hard as it hits business and commercial life and the individual. It is a real struggle to keep in business and while price increases are the last thing we want to impose upon you we would be falling down in our duties as club management if we did not accept that, from time to time, unpalatable decisions have to be taken.

The decision we arrived at was made for no other reason than the future well-being of the club. No one will welcome it, least of all ourselves. But we hope and trust that it will be accepted as inevitable in view of inflation and two disastrously low gates since the turn of the year.

One thing that must be made quite clear is that the extra money you have paid today is not purely and simply to pay the players' bonuses.

That impression may have been gained from press reports and probably stemmed from the fact that, when making his statement to the press, Mr. Walker pointed out that our income from the Huyton tie would not even match the winning bonus.

That was used merely as an example of how expenses were racing away in advance of income. In no way was it meant to imply that the increased prices were purely to provide extra cash for the players.

However, that is all behind us. The main thing now is to help us get over this latest hurdle in the annual Challenge Cup competition.

The chairman was "proud and delighted" at the volume of support for our boys in the match at Huyton. We know we can rely on you again today.

Chat with Challinor

SINCE my last article in the programme the club and I have come to an agreement in which I will continue as Oldham coach for another two seasons.

You may have read in the press that I did, in fact, spend two weeks or so considering the club's offer to retain my services.

Believe me, this was for no other reason than the fact that 25 years is a long time to be involved in the hurly-burly of Rugby League football—and at the end of this season my quarter of a century as player, player-coach and coach is completed.

For several years past I vowed that I would call it a day when I had completed 25 seasons. I thought it was appropriate.

You see a coach, just like a player, loses a lot of time—time that he might feel could be spent with his family—when he is engaged in twice-weekly training and then matches at week-ends.

We are all paid for it, of course, and quite truthfully we enjoy being involved in the game, and learning to live with the pressures it brings, otherwise we would not do it.

I do not hold the view, as some do, that RL players are in the sport purely for what they get out of it. If it was just a matter of supplementing their full-time income they could certainly do it in more lucrative ways than by playing rugby—and not take the same risks, either!

To some extent the same applies to coaches and when making my decision to carry on I had to carefully balance my personal sense of loss in retiring from a game I have loved since I was a boy against the demands made upon me as a husband, a father, and the head of my own sports outfitters business.

As a side issue two other clubs had approached me but I can say with all honesty that the decision rapidly became a clear-cut one ... to stay at Watersheddings or to retire.

I hope my decision to stay is seen as an indication of the trust and understanding that has been built up between the committee, the players and myself during my two seasons at the club.

The players are a grand bunch of lads and if there have been odd occasions when I have felt it right and proper to speak out bluntly about their performance it has only been because of the emotions that build up inside when we work so hard and then things go wrong.

Ken Wilson, the "A" team coach, and I have a good, sound working relationship and through the chairman, Mr. Arthur Walker, I get along well with all members of the committee.

This not only makes life so much happier—and after all we are in the sport basically for the enjoyment, the thrills and the excitement we get out of it—but is of vital importance to the well-being of the club.

If a coach is at loggerheads with either his players or his managing body there isn't an awful lot of hope for the future.

So we now look forward to another two seasons together and I can say with all honesty that I am eagerly looking forward to the challenge provided.

I would like to thank the club for the confidence it has shown in me, the players for the support and backing they have given me, and you—the supporters—for all your efforts in playing your part towards the success of the club and the team.

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Stop that if you can! A glorious run from half-way by full-back Martin Murphy sends him diving over the Huyton line for our second try in the 16-4 win at Alt Park.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

WEMBLEY, 1976, MAY 8th

"The game's showpiece did not simply put soccer's Cup Final to shame, it put it to flight! It had all the pageantry that the other final lacked. It was the day of carnival, a day when Rugby League showed football how to conduct itself." Derek Wallis, the Daily Mirror's soccer pundit, after the 1975 Rugby League Challenge Cup Final.

Standing tickets, priced only £1, available from:

The Rugby Football League,
180 Chapeltown Road,
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The Draw for the Third Round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup will be made live between 6 p.m. and 6-30 p.m. on BBC TV "Look North" programme on Monday, 1st March.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

It is seven long weeks since the last senior match at Watersheddings but the visit of York this afternoon to decide who goes into the last eight of the Challenge Cup has been well worth waiting for and a bumper crowd is expected for what should be a most exciting afternoon.

York's last visit to Watersheddings was for the League match in January, 1973, when the crowd of 2,762 were treated to a hard fought game which rather surprised Oldham who had scored a comfortable 32-8 win at Clarence Street the previous August. One of the main features of that game from Oldham's point of view was the appearance in the second-row of Fred Hall and at loose-forward of John Farrell, both of whom had been signed from Blackpool Borough for £700 and who both made their first team debuts for Oldham that afternoon. The teams for that match were as follows:

Oldham — Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright, Norman Hodgkinson; Cliff Hall, Mick McCone; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Keith Ashcroft, Bob Irving, Fred Hall and Johnny Farrell. Substitutes: Tommy Davies and Arthur Daley.

York — Dick Wallace; Clive Hill, Danny Sheehan, Steve Quinn, Dave Rippon; Chris Young, Gary Smith; Malcolm Dixon, Ken Hunter, Colin Forsyth, Frank Dunham, Arnold Morgan and Al Deighton. Substitutes: Rich Horner (for Deighton) and Dave Walker.

An even first half ended with the scores level at 6-6 but in the second half Oldham were able to pull ahead with two tries from Tony Wainwright and Ken Wilson. Phil Larder's 5 goals took the Oldham score to 16 whilst all York's 10 points came from the reliable boot of Steve Quinn.

There have been many changes in the playing staffs of both clubs since that match, especially at York who seem likely to be fielding a completely different line-up and have dipped deeply into the transfer market this season in order to climb back into the First Division as well as have a lengthy cup run.

Although many knowledgeable Rugby League followers seem to make York favourites to win today's cup-tie the plain fact is that of the 26 matches played by York this season, only 11 have been won and they have only beaten two clubs, Dewsbury and Huyton, who stand in a higher League position and York themselves lie only 7 places from the bottom of the Second Division table. Despite the money paid out in transfer fees by York this season, their League record is none too impressive for, although they have completed double wins over Huyton (21-9 at home and 18-6 away), they have completed disappointing double defeats to Hull, Leigh, New Hunslet and Workington Town. In cup football York have had to face First Division opposition on each outing this season and, under the circumstances, they have done quite well. In the Yorkshire Cup they beat Dewsbury at home 18-12 but then lost to Keighley 13-16, again at Clarence Street. York had to travel to Castleford in the John Player Trophy where they lost 26-15 but in the first round of this Challenge Cup competition they cheered up their supporters by again beating Dewsbury, this time by 25-15.

There is little doubt that they lie in a rather false League position and are sure to give Oldham a stiff game today but home advantage, a more settled side and the confidence gained from the recent run of good results should be enough to carry Oldham through to the quarter-finals and a step nearer the Wembley dream shared by their loyal band of supporters.

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Scoring Power and Staying Power

By Alan Smethurst
of the SWINTON JOURNAL

Wales—the Rugby Union stronghold of the world—has provided the North of England with some of its finest Rugby League players. Names like Lewis Jones and Jack Evans conjure up memories of brilliance that the game has thrived on for many long years.

However, in recent years Rugby League fans have become sceptical of Welsh Rugby Union players turning professional for large signing-on fees.

Welshmen, now more than ever, have to prove their worth on the field and many have failed to live up to their Union reputation.

However, neighbours Swinton and Salford are justly proud of two Welshmen who in recent years have not only given unstinting loyalty to their respective clubs but also great enjoyment to the fans.

The two players in question are David Watkins, the prolific Salford points scorer, and Bob Fleay, the former Aberavon winger who has become a favourite with the Swinton crowd for his enthusiastic approach to the game.

The feats of Watkins do not have to be retold. A quick glance at the Guinness Book of Records will show that he holds the record as the most durable Rugby League player with 140 consecutive appearances for the Reds.

But Fleay is also staking his claim for fame with the Lions. His only representative reward in the game so far has been his selection for the Other Nationalities side, but he too is now in line for a mention in the Guinness Book of Records.

Fleay has already played in 142 consecutive games, but two of those were friendly charity matches against neighbours Salford. Taking those two matches away from his total means that Fleay has now equalled the Watkins' record of 140 consecutive first team appearances.

Bob signed for the Lions in 1970 after scoring a couple of touchdowns in a trial match, but since then he has played in 202 first team games, scoring 86 tries.

An incredible record of which Bob is justly proud, and one which shows that some Welsh Rugby Union converts have not only the scoring power—but the staying power too!

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Assistant Physiotherapist: B. CHURM

Groundsman: W. BUCKLEY

Assistant Groundsman: A. WOOLEY

FIXTURES 1975-76

1975	F. A. 1975	
Aug. 10—Rochdale (Law Cup)A	29- 2 Aug. 30—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...A	12- 7
17—WarringtonA	Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...H	29-10
24—KeighleyH	13-12 20—WiganA	—
31—St. Helens (Lancs. Cup)...H	17-19 4—SwintonH	
Sept. 7—FeatherstoneA	5-27 18—WarringtonH	
14—Lancashire Cup—round 2	25—LeighH	38-17
21—WiganH	10-24 Nov. 14—SalfordA	
28—Player's No. 6—Huyton A	17- 8 29—RochdaleA	
Oct. 5—KeighleyA	17- 8 Dec. 6—SalfordH	
12—HuddersfieldH	17-28 13—St. HelensA	
18—LeedsA	15-18 20—HuytonH	
26—WakefieldA	23-18 27—BarrowH	
Nov. 2—DewsburyH	15- 6 1976	
9—Player's No. 6—round 2	Jan. 10—SwintonA	
16—SalfordH	23—WidnesA	
22—HuddersfieldA	31—RochdaleH	
30—LeedsH	11-12 Feb. 7—St. HelensH	
Dec. 14—St. HelensH	21—WiganH	
21—BradfordA	20-14 Mar. 5—WarringtonA	
26—SwintonH	25- 5 13—LeighH	
Jan. 1—SalfordA	8- 8 20—WidnesH	
4—CastlefordH	6- 8 27—BarrowA	
11—Hull K.R.H	10- 3 Apr. 3—HuytonA	
18—DewsburyA	16- 4	
25—WidnesH	8- 7	
Feb. 8—St. HelensA	P.	
15—Challenge Cup (1)	7-16	
21—WiganA		
29—Challenge Cup (2)		
Mar. 7—WakefieldH		
12—CastlefordA		
21—WidnesA		
28—FeatherstoneH		
Apr. 7—WarringtonH		
11—BradfordH		
16—Hull K.R.A		
19—SwintonA		

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