

## Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER P.
- 4 BOTTOM, S.
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 HUGHES, B.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 KEAR B.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 FLANAGAN, K.
- 13 PETERS A.

- 14
- 15

Referee:

H. T. F. MASON (Halifax)

## Wakefield

- 1 SHEARD, L.
- 2 SMITH, D.
- 3 CROOK, T.
- 4 SUTCLIFFE, J.
- 5 OULTON, H.
- 6 TOPLISS, D.
- 7 HUDSON, T.
- 8 TONKS, L.
- 9 A. N. OTHER
- 10 BALLANTYNE, G.
- 11 IDLE, G.
- 12 ELLIS, I.
- 13 RAYNE, Keith

- 14 LANGTON, T.
- 15 RAYNE, Kevin

T. Clayton (Widnes)

K. Ashall (Prescott)

Red

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

WAKEFIELD

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 YORK**

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

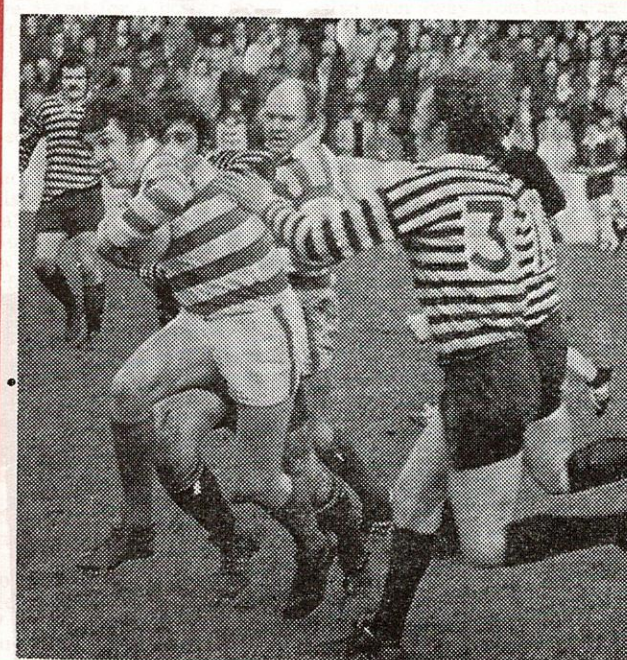
# OLDHAM



## WAKEFIELD

SUNDAY MARCH 7th

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Oldham centre Stuart Bottom on the move in our cup win over York. York's Jackie Marston (No. 3) comes across to challenge.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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## OLDHAM OUTLOOK

MAY we take this opportunity of thanking all those supporters who have helped us to reach the third round of the Challenge Cup for the third time in four years.

We could have asked for a better tie than that at St. Helens next Sunday (kick-off 3 p.m.) but you have to take what comes and we can gain some confidence from our performances against the top teams, particularly away from home, in this somewhat up-and-down season.

We WERE lucky to beat York. That is true. But it is equally true that our performance that day has no real bearing either on our general displays this season or how one can reasonably expect us to perform at Knowsley Road.

Not only do York now possess a very big pack but, as underdogs, they came here with everything to gain and nothing to lose ... just as we will go to St. Helens who are now made cup favourites by the bookmakers at 2-1 against.

We were very wary about going to Huyton and we were equally wary about our task against York. For the simple reason that the underdogs tend to raise their game on the day and can so easily hustle and harrass the favourites out of it.

Have you stopped to think that the Saints might feel just the same way about Oldham? We did, after all, beat them in a League game only four weeks ago.

And our record against the top teams this season has not been a bad one by any standards. The two drubbings by Salford apart we have generally played much better against better-class opposition.

We held Salford, second in the League, to a draw at the Willows on New Year's Day and we knocked Widnes, currently placed third, out of the Floodlit Trophy.

We were by far the better side in the first half at Wigan (4th) and although losing twice to fifth-placed Leeds we were the better side at Headingley, losing only to a try involving that hooter incident, and lost the return match at

Watersheddings only to a Les Dyl "special" with five minutes to go.

Wakefield and St. Helens, placed sixth and seventh, were both beaten on their own home grounds and we have also won away from home at Dewsbury, Bradford and Keighley.

It goes without saying that it will be a very hard tie to win.

**But don't run away with the idea that we are on a hiding to nothing. For the first time in this season's Challenge Cup competition we are rank outsiders and, if nothing else, it will be a refreshing change to prepare for the match with that in mind.**

We will, of course, be relying on plenty of support from Oldham and we think we can get it, judging by the numbers who followed us to Huyton in the first round and for the League match at Wigan.

Stand tickets for the tie will be on sale at the pavilion office today. They are priced at 75p, 80p and 85p.

We have received our full one-third allocation but that represents only about 700 seats so if you want to ensure yourselves of comfort at Knowsley Road, and a grandstand view to boot, now is the time to get your ticket.

You may think it strange that admission to this THIRD-ROUND tie will cost you less than it did to get into the SECOND-ROUND match here at Watersheddings.

The answer is simple. In our last programme notes we outlined the reasons for the prices we charged against York and judging by the attendance the fans saw our point of view.

St. Helens tend to take a different view. The cup prices are fixed by mutual consent and in the event of dispute the League acts to arbitrate.

But as there was only two weeks between the two ties and it was essential to get the tickets on sale as quickly as possible we felt we couldn't spare the time to press our claims and go to the League.

In the end we settled for a compromise.



# For the Price of a Stamp

by  
Roger Halstead  
of the

OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

RUGBY LEAGUE coverage in the national press is very much on the decline.

It is perhaps unfair to generalise because some papers do allocate more space to League than others. But it doesn't need a close scrutiny of the nationals to conclude with a reasonable degree of accuracy that our game is losing column inches—and losing them fast.

You cannot put a pint into a gill glass, and vast changes in our social climate over the last decade or so have led to the growth in popularity of such participation sports as fishing, bowls, squash and numerous other hobbies and pastimes that are now overtaking Rugby League in the national paper sports editors' list of priorities.

As League has waned—certainly in terms of gate figures—there has been a boom in other sports, Union included, and this is not unnaturally reflected in our sports pages.

While sitting at home the other day I glanced, at random, at three popular morning papers.

One carried 15 paragraphs of Rugby League, a 12-paragraph bowls column, and no fewer than 38 paragraphs of Rugby Union, split into five different stories by named writers.

Another carried ONE filler paragraph on League but a huge spread on bowls, including a picture.

Another managed 10 paragraphs on League in its total of six tabloid pages of sports.

I am well aware that I am leaving myself wide open to accusations that you cannot gauge the quantity of publicity given to any one sport by merely taking one day's editions.

It could, I agree, have been a quiet day on the League front—but with papers regularly carrying news and features these days on squash, bowls and fishing it must naturally follow that League coverage diminishes.

Sadly, this is only the start of it. With the advance of technology in the print and allied industries vast changes in national newspaper production are envisaged in the next year or two.

Manchester, in the next few years, will lose its "pull" as the biggest national newspaper centre outside Fleet Street. One can expect a much heavier concentration of production from London.

There is a very real threat of the League area — Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria — becoming little more than a grey area on the national papers' map of campaign, if not exactly a mere dot.

Alive to the problems, the RL Council appointed, a little more than 18 months ago, its own PRO in the shape of the energetic and hard - working David Howes.

As a full-time journalist himself David knows as well as I, or any other newspaperman working in Rugby League, just how hard life can be in the battle for space—possibly more so than many, including myself, working in newspapers covering a limited area.

He is doing a good job in the face of most tremendous odds, but he needs the support and backing of all RL men—and particularly the help of YOU, the fans on the terraces—if the fight is to be won.

In the ultimate analysis it is the views and opinions of you people, the readers of Rugby League, that are going to count most.

YOU are the sports editors' market. YOU are the people who may very well choose which paper you buy on the strength, or weakness, of the game's coverage in that paper. YOU are the men, and women, who need to shout from the grandstands and terraces of our grounds that you want to see more space given to our game.

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Get out of that! Our winger, Eddie Barton, comes to a full stop in the face of a challenge by York forward Alan Rhodes during the second-round Challenge Cup tie.

Others in the picture (left to right) are: Stuart Bottom, John Hughes, Dave Barends, and Jackie Marston.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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## OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

After the thrilling, if somewhat fortunate, victory over York in last week's absorbing cup tie, Oldham return to the bread and butter of League football today with an equally attractive match against another top Yorkshire side, Wakefield Trinity.

Oldham's amazing 23-18 win at Wakefield last October, which was achieved after trailing 2-18, gives them the opportunity of scoring their first League double over Trinity since season 1956-57. On that occasion Oldham won 20-18 away and by 19-15 at home and that double, plus a similar feat in 1954-55 (when they won 32-22 away and by 8-7 at home) are the only two occasions since the war that Oldham have defeated Trinity twice in League matches in one season. Indeed the win at Wakefield this season was Oldham's first victory at Belle Vue since 1962.

Oldham's last double victory in 1956-57 came when the club had its best ever side but in the late 1950s as Oldham declined it was Wakefield who rose to dominate Rugby League during the early sixties. An indication of Trinity's rise to power was given to Oldham when they met Wakefield at Belle Vue in the third match of season 1958-59 when a crowd of 13,200 saw Oldham surprisingly beaten 23-7. Trinity scored 5 tries that afternoon from Ken Rollin (3), Aubrey Houlden and Fred Smith, who went on to break his club's try-scoring record that season with 37 touchdowns. Other club records that fell during that season were the goal and point scoring records claimed by Neil Fox (146 goals, 370 pts.) and he duly obliged that afternoon by landing 4 goals. Oldham's 7 points came from two goals by Bernard Ganley and a try from Des McKeown. The teams for that match were as follows:

Wakefield Trinity—Eric Lockwood; Fred Smith, Keith Holliday, Neil Fox, Aubrey Houlden; Harry Poynton, Ken Rollin; Sam Evans, John Shaw, Bob Kelly, Albert Firth, Les Chamberlain and Ken Traill.

Oldham — Bernard Ganley; Dick Cracknell, Johnny Edwards, Dennis Ayres, Geoff Sims; Alan Kellett, Frank Stirrup; Ron Rowbottom, Jack Keith, Don Vines, Charlie Winslade, Des McKeown and Derek Turner.

Three weeks later Oldham gained revenge by beating Trinity 28-11 at home but Wakefield's improvement continued and later that season three of Oldham's stars of their Championship winning side, John Etty, Don Vines and Derek Turner, moved over the Pennines to join Wakefield's highly successful squad.

The present Trinity side have made a determined effort this season to lift a major prize and are still in with a chance of becoming First Division Champions. They lie in sixth place in the Championship table having won 13 of their 21 League matches. Five of Wakefield's 8 League defeats this season have occurred at Belle Vue and if their form at home was as good as it is away, then Trinity would surely head the League table. The three away defeats sustained by Trinity were at Wigan 29-20, Dewsbury 31-8 and Swinton 23-10 but in contrast Wakefield won away against First Division pace makers Salford 16-9 and Widnes 12-9.

Trinity must win today if they are to keep in the Championship chase but for Oldham, too, victory is important for every point is vital in the quest to gain a top eight spot and with it a place in the end-of-season Premiership play-off.



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## Brian Batty

It is ten years ago that Rugby League showed the way to other sports with the introduction of substitutes.

The move was made at the annual meeting of the League in time for the start of the 1964-65 season.

The original plan was passed permitting clubs to have two substitutes for the replacement of injured players up to half time.

Club officials and coaches quickly realised that it was necessary to have players replaced at any stage of the game.

It was also felt that there was nothing wrong with substitutes being introduced as a tactical measure.

It was also inevitable that Soccer and Rugby Union would follow suit in a move that has been hailed as a great success.

Soccer teams are allowed only one substitute but it seems now that they are ready to step ahead of the rugby codes.

First Division Manchester City have been examining the treatment of substitutes or rather the need to bring them in from the cold.

They feel that normal tracksuits are inadequate for players who may be rooted to a bench for the best part of an hour or more on a wintry afternoon or evening.

So they have arranged with the firm who provided the clothing for Britain's recent Everest expedition to supply special suits for their substitutes.

They will take the shape of an all-in-one suit and special material will certainly keep out the worst winds, rain and cold that this country can produce.

Soccer is big business and that is why the cost, which is in the region of £70 for one suit, is unlikely to cause any financial problems.

It might be a different matter for many Rugby League clubs but even so those who can afford to take such a step could find it wise investment for the future.

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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 .....	H
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) .....	H
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	12- 7
—	Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield) ..	H	29-10
13-12	20—Wigan .....	A	—
17-19	Oct. 4—Swinton .....	H	—
5-27	18—Warrington .....	H	—
—	25—Leigh .....	H	38-17
10-24	Nov. 14—Salford .....	A	—
17- 8	29—Rochdale .....	A	—
17-28	Dec. 6—Salford .....	H	—
15-18	13—St. Helens .....	A	—
23-18	20—Huyton .....	H	—
15- 6	27—Barrow .....	H	—
—	1976	—	—
10-37	Jan. 10—Swinton .....	A	—
14-19	23—Widnes .....	A	—
11-12	31—Rochdale .....	H	—
—	Feb. 7—St. Helens .....	H	—
20-14	21—Wigan .....	H	—
25- 5	Mar. 5—Warrington .....	A	—
8- 8	13—Leigh .....	H	—
6- 8	20—Widnes .....	H	—
10- 3	27—Barrow .....	A	—
16- 4	Apr. 3—Huyton .....	A	—
8- 7	—	—	—
7-16	—	—	—

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