

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BARTON, E.
- 5 LUND, S
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 HUGHES, B.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 OWEN, G.
- 11 KEAR, R.
- 12 FLANAGAN, K.
- 13 BROWN, D.
- 14 BLAIR, J.
- 15 HERBERT, S

Referee:
P. GERAGHTY (York)

Featherstone

- 1 BOX, H
- 2 DYAS, D.
- 3 COVENTRY, P.
- 4 QUINN, S.
- 5 KELLETT, K.
- 6 NEWLOVE, J.
- 7 BANNER, P.
- 8 THOMPSON, J.
- 9 BRIDGES, K.
- 10 FARRAR, V.
- 11 GIBBINS, M.
- 12 SMITH, P.
- 13 BELL, K.
- 14 SMITH, M.
- 15 STONE, C.

E. Glazebrook (Wigan) Red
T. A. Rynn (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
FEATHERSTONE

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 ST. HELENS

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

OLDHAM



FEATHERSTONE

SUNDAY 4th APRIL

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



David Treasure, switched to scrum-half in the absence of the injured Mick McCone, comes to a full stop at the hands of two St. Helens defenders in the match against Saints at Watersheddings last week.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

TODAY we welcome to Water-sheddings the Rovers of Post Office Road—and what a tremendous season they are having as they go hell bent for the First Division title after the disappointment of losing to Widnes in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup.

In many ways Featherstone set an example that most clubs could do well to follow. There seems to be an endless supply line of talent coming through at Post Office Road and while one accepts that Featherstone are in the middle of a hot-bed of amateur R.L. these things don't just happen—they are made to happen.

Excuse us asking . . . but have we really done something to upset the powers-that-be up in the heavens?

It seems that we are hardly ever blessed with a decent day for our home games—and the fixture against St. Helens was very much a case in point.

The match was fogged off in December at half-time and could quite easily have suffered a similar fate when it was replayed on Wednesday of last week. It was yet another horrible day with the result that the crowd was considerably less than 2,000.

This is tragic because it was merely the latest of a long line of such days for our home games and it means that we are attempting to run a First Division club on Second Division gates.

Let us hope that the gods are more in our favour today, for if the weather is kind we ought to get some decent support for a match of this nature. The same applies, too, to next Sunday's home game with Bradford Northern—one of the best supported teams away from home in the Rugby League.

Sandwiched between we have the visit of Warrington next Wednesday night.

It means that in the space of 13 days we will have played five matches. What a task that is! And with our First Division status firmly on the line in the bargain!

Actually, today's game was arranged for us by the executive committee of the Northern Rugby League—one of several outstanding games arranged by the League in a bid to stop disputes between clubs which would otherwise be inevitable in the annual, end-of-season fixture glut.

It was down to be played last Sunday but Rovers, of course, were in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup.

The executive committee was left, in their deliberations, to ask us to play the Rovers today or ask Hull K.R. to travel to Post Office Road.

As Hull K.R. had a match at Salford on Friday they opted for the lesser of two evils, giving us one home game and one away game in three days—at Castleford on Friday—rather than asking Hull K.R. to play two away matches in the same three-day period.

It all means that, starting today, we have three home games in eight days. Warrington provide attractive opposition next Wednesday night and Bradford are here next Sunday.

The Northern game will be of double importance to us because, like us, they are struggling to escape the drop into Division Two—a relegation that for any club in these hard times could only be described as disastrous.

As things stand at present Dewsbury look firm favourites to join Swinton, Keighley and Huddersfield in the Second Division next season.

But as we have pointed out previously the fact that so many teams have to play so many matches in such a short period of time means that surprise results are more likely to happen than at any time in the season.

It behoves us, therefore, not to rely on Dewsbury coming unstuck but to make things safe for ourselves by picking up wins—and points.

Finally, as the end of the season nears, may we appeal to all our fans to support us in the final run-in. The summer break will soon be upon us and in our remaining home matches we really do need the revenue from the sort of gates one would normally associate with a First Division outfit.

Brian Batty

RUGBY League has lost another devoted and popular official this year with the sudden death of Wilf Spaven.

The burly, jovial figure of the Hull K.R. chairman will be missed throughout a sport to which he gave tremendous dedication.

It was hard to believe that Wilf was actually based on Humberside because he spent so much time travelling on behalf of the game he loved.

It was nothing for him to make the trip across to either Lancashire or Cumbria as many as two and three times a week on official League business whatever the weather.

I find it both sad and ironic that after 27 years on the board of Hull K.R., that he should depart with the motorway reaching almost to Hull's doorstep.

As the second longest serving member of the Council he was chairman in 1962-63. He was current chairman of the disciplinary committee, chairman of the international committee and the Great Britain selectors.

He sprang to international prominence when he was chosen to manage the Great Britain team in three Tests against New Zealand in 1965.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

PETER GERAGHTY (Born 12-6-1928). Height: 5ft. 10ins.; Weight: 12st. 7lbs; Hobbies: Reading, Amateur Rugby League; Occupation: Reproduction Manager with a printing company. Married with six children. Passed Referees' Exam. in 1957 and had become a Grade 1 referee by 1963. Honours include numerous County Matches, Lancashire Cup Final, 1974 Championship Final and the 1975 Wembley Cup Final between Warrington and Widnes.

The following year he managed a Great Britain team to Australia and New Zealand and his popularity was as high in those countries as on home soil.

The most rewarding spell as manager came in 1972 when Great Britain regained the World Cup in France at two memorable clashes with Australia.

His coach was Jim Challinor, the former Great Britain centre, who was also to tour Australia and New Zealand as a player and then assistant manager.

They struck a friendly and successful partnership. I remember on the plane returning from France with the trophy, Jim paying tribute to his manager.

"I was delighted with the way we got on", said Jim, "Wilf allowed me to get on with the job and never interfered. It was true to say we never had a wrong word."

I think that last sentence aptly sums up perfectly Wilf Spaven for so many people who knew him so well and mourn his death.

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A picture that really depicts how bad the conditions were for the visit of St. Helens on Wednesday of last week. Mist and mud made it a photographer's nightmare . . . but the Oldham man in possession, falling to a two-man tackle, is forward Jimmy Reynolds.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

THIS afternoon Oldham welcome to Watersheddings the talented and successful Featherstone Rovers side who seem poised to achieve their season-long ambition of winning the First Division championship with a refreshing brand of football which has seen them climb three points clear of their closest rivals.

They already hold one decision over Oldham, having soundly defeated the Roughyeds at Post Office Road last September to the tune of 27 points to 5. Should they win today, therefore, they will become the fourth side this season to have completed the "double" over Oldham, the other three clubs being Wigan, Leeds and Huddersfield. Rovers have not beaten Oldham home and away in one season since 1968-69 when they won here 24-22 and at Featherstone by 23-12. Oldham, on the other hand, scored a double victory over Rovers on the last occasion that they met in First Division matches during their relegation season in 1973-74. At Watersheddings, Oldham scraped a 14-12 victory, but over at Post Office Road the scoreline was more clear cut at 19-10 in Oldham's favour.

Featherstone's last victory on this pitch was in October, 1971, when they pulled off an exciting 21-17 win before a crowd of 1,745. The star of that Featherstone victory was substitute forward Alan Rhodes who came on for Keith Bridges and scored two of Rovers' five tries, the other three coming from Mick Smith, John Newlove and Keith Bridges. Veteran full-back Cyril Kellett landed three goals for Featherstone whilst Oldham's points came from a try and four goals scored by Phil Larder and other tries from Norman Hodgkinson and Bob Irving. There have been many changes in the playing personnel of both clubs since that match four and a half years ago and it is interesting to note the teams who were on duty that afternoon:

Oldham: Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Trevor Buckley, Norman Hodgkinson; Alan Kellett, Cliff Sayer; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Dick Bonser, Bob Irving, John Alchin and Ray Clark. Substitutes: Tony Seahill (for Sayer) and Bill Churm (for Hodgkinson).

Featherstone Rovers: Cyril Kellett; Dave Hartley, Mick Smith, John Newlove, Paul Coventry; Mel Mason, Terry Hudson; Les Tonks, Keith Bridges, Vince Farrar, Arnie Morgan, Dick Stone and Colin Smith. Substitutes: Steve Nash (for Hudson) and Alan Rhodes (for Bridges).

Only Kevin Taylor remains from that Oldham pack and Murphy, Elliott and Larder in the backs whilst many of the Featherstone side have moved to other clubs. Terry Hudson and Les Tonks were here last month with Wakefield and substitute back Steve Nash now displays his many talents in Salford's all-star back division.

Featherstone's rebuilt side have had a tremendous season and are heading for their very first championship success. They were championship runners-up way back in 1927-28 but this season they seem poised to lift the First Division Trophy. Although the title run-in promises to be a close fought and exciting affair, Rovers must be confident of eventual success for they have lost only five League matches all season and have scored impressive double victories over Swinton, Keighley, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Warrington and Widnes.

It will certainly be a difficult afternoon for Oldham, especially if the Rovers find the sort of form which led to the 33-7 hammering of Leeds in the Challenge Cup quarter-final. But that match was over in Yorkshire whilst today's game is on this side of the Pennines where Rovers have already met with defeat four times this season. Oldham will be determined to make it five by the end of this afternoon.

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33. Nereo	03803		
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LANCASHIRE RUGBY LEAGUE

COMBINATION

Combination Table

Compiled up to and including Sat,
27th March, 1976

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
St. Helens	17	15	1	1	357	139	31
Wigan	18	14	0	4	325	244	28
Rochdale H.	18	12	1	5	222	152	25
Warrington	19	10	1	8	295	224	21
Oldham	16	10	0	6	221	170	20
Widnes	15	6	2	7	161	193	14
Barrow	17	5	1	11	163	254	11
Leigh	18	4	2	12	261	321	10
Swinton	17	5	0	12	192	273	10
Salford	17	5	0	12	150	257	10
Huyton	12	2	0	10	125	245	4

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Oldham

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- 12 FLANAGAN, K.
- 13 BROWN, D.

- 14 BLAIR, J.
- 15 HERBERT, S

Referee:

P. GERAGHTY (York)

Sunday 4th April

Featherstone

- 1 BOX, H.
- 2 DYAS, D.
- 3 COVENTRY, P.
- 4 QUINN, S.
- 5 KELLETT, K.

- 6 NEWLOVE, J.
- 7 BANNER, P.

- 8 THOMPSON, J,
- 9 BRIDGES, K.
- 10 FARRAR, V.
- 11 GIBBINS, M.
- 12 SMITH, P.
- 13 BELL, K.

- 14 SMITH, M.
- 15 STONE, C.

E. Glazebrook (Wigan)

Red

T. A. Rynn (Wigan)

Orange

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