

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BARTON, E.
- 5 JACKSON, K.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 HAMMOND, J.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 McCOURT, H.
- 11 HERBERT, S.
- 12 FLANAGAN, K.
- 13 PETERS, T.

- 14
- 15

Referee:

T. M. Beaumont (Huddersfield)

Bradford

- 1 MUMBY, K.
- 2 FRANCIS, R.
- 3 ROWE, P.
- 4 EVANS, G.
- 5 REDFEARN, D.
- 6 BLACKER, M.
- 7 SEABOURNE, B.
- 8 MURPHY, M.
- 9 ASTBURY, P.
- 10 MORDUE, D.
- 11 FEARNLEY, S.
- 12 JOYCE, G.
- 13 WOOLFORD, G.
- 14 ~~SELLARS, L.~~ STOCKWELL
- 15 TROTTER, D

K. Ashall (Prescott)

Red

A. Hulme (Widnes)

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 BRADFORD

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

WARRINGTON

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OLDHAM

WIN
39-16



BRADFORD

SUNDAY 11th APRIL

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Kevin Flanagan falls to a three-man tackle in last Sunday's home defeat by Featherstone.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

TODAY'S game against Bradford Northern assumes extra importance because we are both trying to ensure our appearance in the First Division next season, at the expense of Dewsbury.

It is now virtually certain that Swinton, Huddersfield and Keighley will take the big drop with the fourth club coming from one of three—Dewsbury, Bradford, or Oldham.

Today's game, therefore, is indeed a four-pointer and one we badly need to win.

It takes the mind back, in fact, to our match at Odsal before the turn of the year.

Then, like now, we had had a bad spell. But we put it all together in the big Bradford bowl, won handsomely, and set off on a run of success that was to put us well within striking distance of the top eight and a place in the premiership play-off.

Let's hope history repeats itself today and that we indeed refine our best form to give us confidence to go into our remaining matches.

These are against Hull K.R. at Craven Park on Good Friday, Swinton at Station Road on Easter Monday, and finally Widnes at Watersheddings—the last match of the season—on the following Sunday.

Who better than Widnes, now preparing for their second consecutive visit to Wembley, to wind up the Watersheddings season?

It should be a cracking game and as it is the last chance of getting a gate before the summer close-down may we take this opportunity of appealing to all our fans and supporters to make the effort to come along to see the lads in action for the last time for a few months.

It really is amazing how time flies! It doesn't seem more than a few weeks ago that we were welcoming the fans back to Watersheddings for the first match on our return to the First Division.

Now it's nearly all over . . . and while it has been a very topsy-turvy season, with our form very inconsistent we have had to contend with some very bad luck on the way.

It started even before a ball was passed. The boys were still involved in pre-season training when John Farrell collapsed and was ultimately forced to retire, on health grounds, from the game he truly loved.

Though we didn't know it at the time that was only the start . . . recurring injuries have dogged Brian Hughes, Bob Welding was our best and most consistent forward until he first hurt his neck and then badly gashed his shin bone on his "A" team comeback, Keith Ashcroft and Tony Wainwright suffered broken jaws, Phil Larder was out at a crucial time with a leg injury, and numerous other players, from time to time, have been laid off.

Luck has not been on our side, either, in relation to the weather and home gates. When we were doing well the weather for home matches was absolutely atrocious.

The gates dropped as a result and now that the weather is picking up we have only the fight against relegation to motivate the fans into turning up.

We can safely say, and realistically say, that luck has not been on our side this season except, perhaps, for the match against York in the Challenge Cup when we did have more than our share.

But one match doesn't make a season and we can only hope that fortune favours us in a better way come the start of the 1976-77 campaign next August.

We viewed this season as one of consolidating in the First Division—and consolidate we undoubtedly did until our recent lapses of form which, prior to Wednesday's Warrington match, had seen us go seven First Division games without a win.

Suddenly, we were in trouble . . . but we ought to stay up, we are good enough to stay up, and the chances are we will stay up.

On the financial side, too, it had to be a period of tightening our belt and trimming debts. This we have achieved and the prospects of strengthening the side in time for next season look brighter than they did a few months ago.

Ensuring Survival

by
RON GIRVIN
Assistant Editor,
Evening Post and Chronicle, Wigan.

I DON'T suppose there are many Rugby League journalists who are also qualified R.L. coaches — but I'm delighted I decided to have a go.

It all began a year last October when referee Mick Naughton invited me to go down to the Widnes Tigers club which he formed some six years ago. I went along, taking my seven-year-old son, Ian, with me.

We watched youngsters of all ages enthusiastically playing the game, and my lad decided that he would like to join. Having stood on the touchline for several weeks, the chance came for me to take the field and give Mick Naughton a helping hand.

During the summer Mick decided to run a coaching course, and I thought it was a good opportunity to find out how to put the game over to the youngsters properly.

Having covered Rugby League for 20 years—trouble is, there are no testimonials for journalists! — I thought I knew most things about the game. But you can never stop learning. And I certainly learned a lot on that course.

This season more and more lads have turned up at Mick Naughton's Widnes Tigers club, and I have thoroughly enjoyed helping them understand the basics of the game.

Mick has some great helpers, but you can never have enough and I would

advise anyone who is interested in teaching youngsters the game to try the course. Even if you don't get a grading, you are bound to learn something.

After all, the intention is not to set you on course to take over at Central Park or at Headingley. It's simply a question of getting to the basics of the game, to try and bring more young people into Rugby League. It's about survival.

Even if the youngsters don't make the grade when they are older, they will stay on as interested spectators.

The Rugby League is doing more than ever before to encourage today's young people, and I am convinced that in five to 10 years this great game is going to be played and watched by more people than for many, many years.

It's nice to see that players of today are interested in the future too, that they have the game at heart and are not simply content to play. They are certainly keen in the Widnes area. Reg Bowden, John Stephens, Mick Adams, John Wood, Eric Hughes, Tony Karalius, Robin Whitfield and many more are all doing something to ensure the game's future by helping youngsters learn the basics.

Let's hope the future remains as bright as it looks now with the upsurge of interest in schools, universities and private clubs.

the champion Salford school, Hope High.

Our opponents this afternoon, will be International Harvesters a Bradford firm who run a boys' club similar to our own. We came in contact with them as a result of our game at Odsal.

Our team will be — D. Hilton, K. Whitney, A. Fletcher, G. Robinson, P. Brooks, P. Wharton, M. Marsden, P. Wild, N. Karran, B. Raynor, G. Oldham, S. Henthorn, A. Marsh.

CURTAIN RAISER **Shaw and Crompton R.L. Club**

The club was recently formed for youngsters from the present and past New Barn School Rugby Teams. Since starting, however, a number of boys have joined from Oldham schools which do not play Rugby. The club has recently played "curtain raisers" at Bradford Northern where we were beaten 18-0 by Bradford Schools' Team, and at Salford where we won 16-3 against

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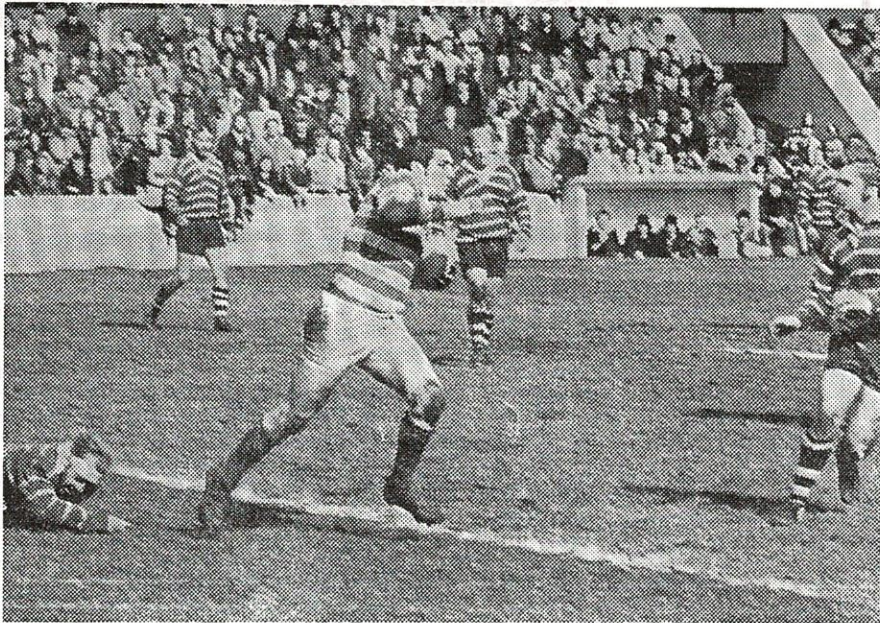
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Barry Kear on the break against his former Post Office Road mates. Having left John Bridges on the ground, Barry strides out towards the waiting Featherstone defenders.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

This afternoon Oldham meet Bradford Northern in what has become the most important League match of the season and, because of the disastrous effect relegation would have on the club, it is argued that today's game is even more important than last month's gripping cup tie against Saint Helens.

During the past five seasons Oldham and Bradford have met each other on four occasions with the visiting club winning each time. Oldham will be hoping that this sequence comes to a halt so that they can follow up last December's 20-14 win at Odsal by completing the double over their fellow relegation strugglers.

Bradford's last visit to Watersheddings for a League match was in December, 1971, at a time when they were enjoying a most successful run which culminated in them ending the season in second place in the Championship table. They had in their ranks for that match David Treasure who will be on the opposite side this afternoon and, Oldham fans hope, repeating the star display he gave against his former colleagues at Odsal last December. The line up for that much four seasons ago was:

Oldham: Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Joe Collins, Tommy Davies; Cliff Hill, Johnny Blair; Frank Walker, Kevin Taylor, Dick Bonser, Bob Irving, Jim Reynolds and Ray Clark. Substitutes: Mick Wilde (for Blair) and Bill Churm (for Irving).

Bradford Northern: Eddie Tees; Mike Lamb, Phil Evans, Bernard Watson, David Redfean; David Treasure, Mike Blacker; Laurie Hinchcliffe, Jimmy Eyre, Dave Hill, Stuart Gallagher, Phil Jackson and Stan Fearnley.

Substitutes: Peter Small (for Evans) and Graham Joyce (for Watson).

Northern always command good support and they were well represented in the crowd of 2,458 which turned up to watch this incident packed game. One of the dangermen in Northern's side was full-back Eddie Tees who that season scored 7 tries and 176 goals, 373 points to create club goal and points scoring records but he was only able to land one goal in that match before being sent off by referee George Wilson for a high tackle. The numerical advantage given to Oldham by that incident did not last long, however, for Oldham were also reduced to 12 men when Dick Bonser followed Tees for an early bath. The game was not all fist-cuffs though and there was plenty of good football played by both sides. The Bradford pack proved to be too mobile for Oldham and it was in that department where Northern came up on top to enable them to register a 13-9 win. Bradford's hero of that afternoon was Stuart Gallagher who raced over for 2 tries and their other points came from a try by Mike Lamb and a goal from Graham Joyce. Oldham's try was scored by Mike Elliott whilst the three goals came from Phil Larder (2) and Johnny Blair.

The importance of today's game should ensure that the thrills and excitement of that match are repeated by two sides who are desperate for success. Ground advantage will be a tremendous boost to Oldham's hopes but the newcomers in the Bradford side have considerably brightened their chances of winning what should be a nailbiting encounter.

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

THOMAS MICHAEL BEAUMONT (Born 17-6-40). Height: 5ft. 9ins.; Weight: 12½ stones; Hobbies: Gardening and all sports; Occupation: Pattern weaver. Married with two children. Passed Referees' Exam. in 1969 and promoted to Grade 2 in 1972. Has twice refereed the Yorkshire Senior Competition Cup Final. Is interested in Rugby League coaching.

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Brian Batty

Rugby League clubs need no reminding of the financial problems they face, particularly those with little crowd-pulling power.

It is a grim existence for many and it is hardly comforting to find that Rugby Union is not as healthy as many would have us believe.

When the facts are examined it seems that many of the 15-a-side clubs are in a far worse state.

The giants of Union are clearly those suffering most and it was interesting to read the conclusions on the situation drawn by one expert.

He said: "The financial problems facing the gate-pulling clubs are serious and threaten the whole future of Rugby (Union) in this country.

"If these clubs cease to be financially viable and are forced into liquidation then where will the Rugby Union find its players for its international teams?"

The cause for such alarm is contained in the revelation that top clubs like Bristol, Moseley, Birmingham, Rugby and to a lesser extent Sale lost money last season.

Bristol were the worst hit with a £7,653 loss, followed by Moseley (£7,097) with Sale (£157) at the lower end of the scale.

The reasons given are those common to League — mounting costs in travel, accommodation, administration, maintenance and increase in rates.

Coventry are hitting out at the live televising of international matches on Saturday and claim that such a clash when they played Northampton recently reduced receipts from an expected £700 to £170.

Oldham chairman Arthur Walker recently voiced his belief that League clubs should not have to meet their rates' demand as they provide an amenity to their town or city.

Sale Rugby Union club were enjoying a 25 per cent. rebate until local Government reorganisation but now get no relief.

The problems are mounting as much in League and they cannot continue to be met by gate money, raffles and other sorts of competitions.

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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	Oct. 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	10-37	Jan. 10—SwintonA	—
16—SalfordH	14-19	23—WidnesA	—
22—HuddersfieldA	11-12	31—RochdaleH	—
30—LeedsH	—	Feb. 7—St. HelensH	—
Dec. 21—BradfordA	20-14	21—WiganH	—
26—SwintonH	25- 5	Mar. 5—WarringtonA	—
Jan. 1—SalfordA	8- 8	13—LeighH	—
4—CastlefordH	6- 8	20—WidnesH	—
11—Hull K.R.H	10- 3	27—BarrowA	—
18—DewsburyA	16- 4	Apr. 3—HuytonA	—
25—WidnesH	P.		
Feb. 8—St. HelensA	8- 7		
21—WiganA	7-16		
Mar. 7—WakefieldH	5-10		
30—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) ...A	—		
Apr. 2—Castleford (7-30 p.m.) ...A	—		
4—Featherstone (3-30 p.m.) ...H	—		
7—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) ...H	—		
11—Bradford N. (3-30 p.m.) ...H	—		
16—Hull K.R. (2-45 p.m.) ...A	—		
19—Swinton (3-00 p.m.)A	—		
25—Widnes (3-30 p.m.)H	—		

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